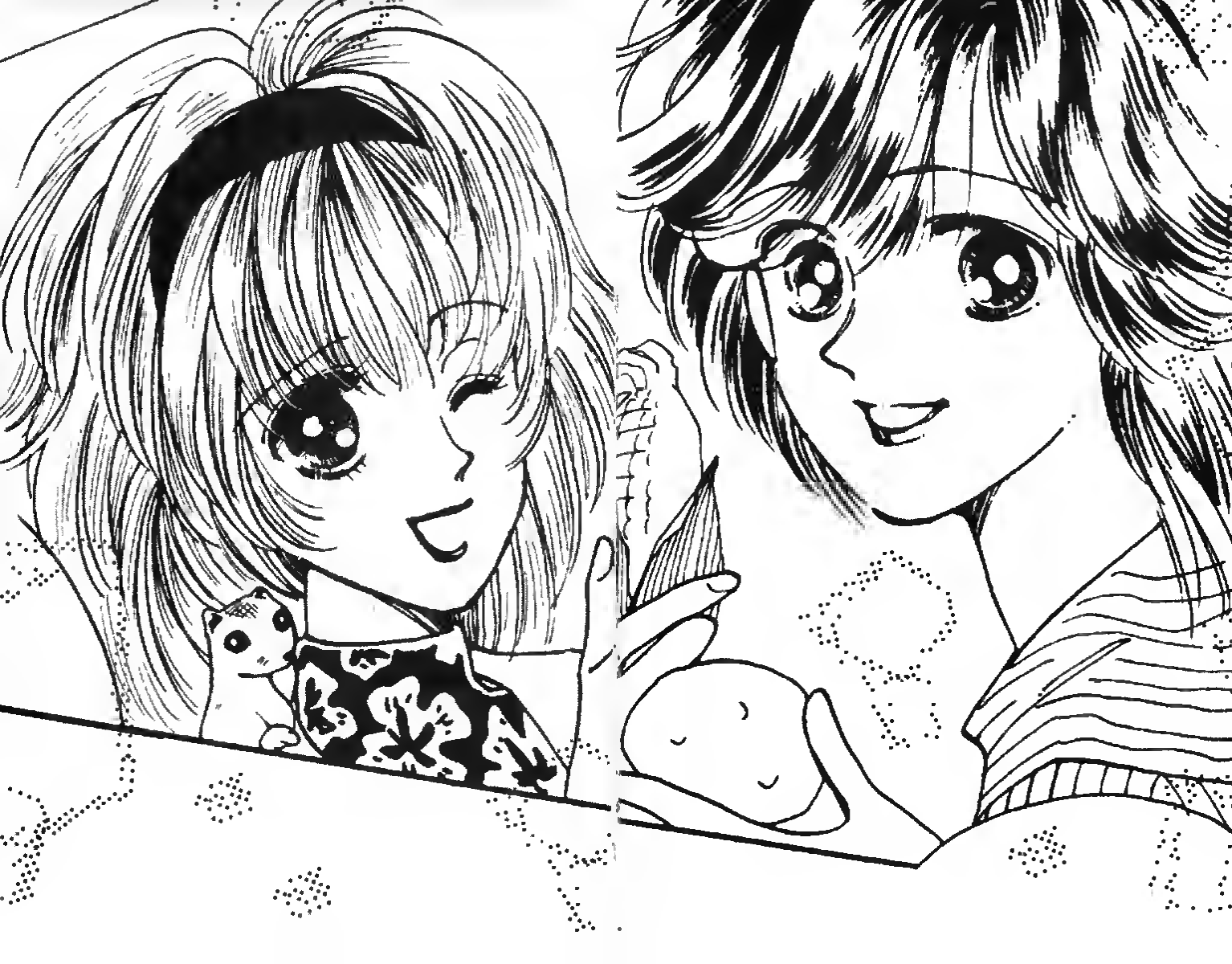
By the author of *Princess Prince*

Popcorn Romance

Bonus Story!
THE MAGIC OF LOVE

Tomoko Taniguchi



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Popcorn Romance

Tomoko Taniguchi
Writer and Artist

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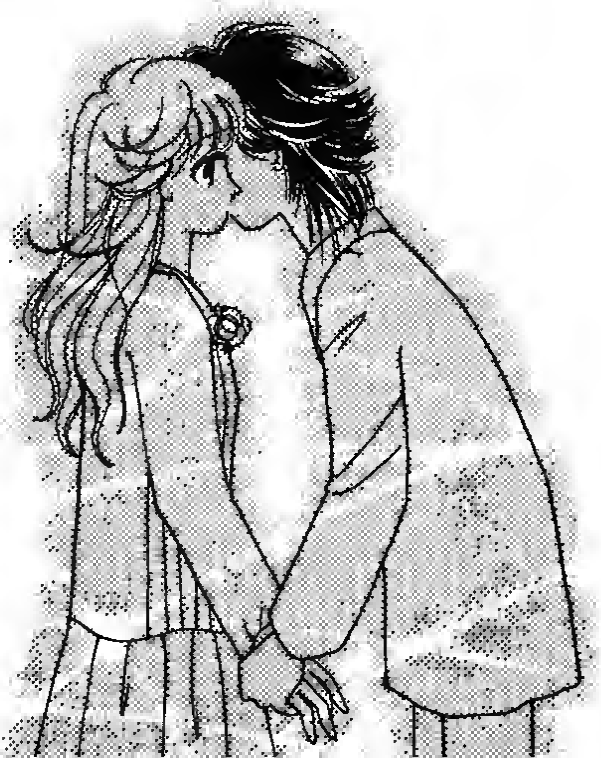
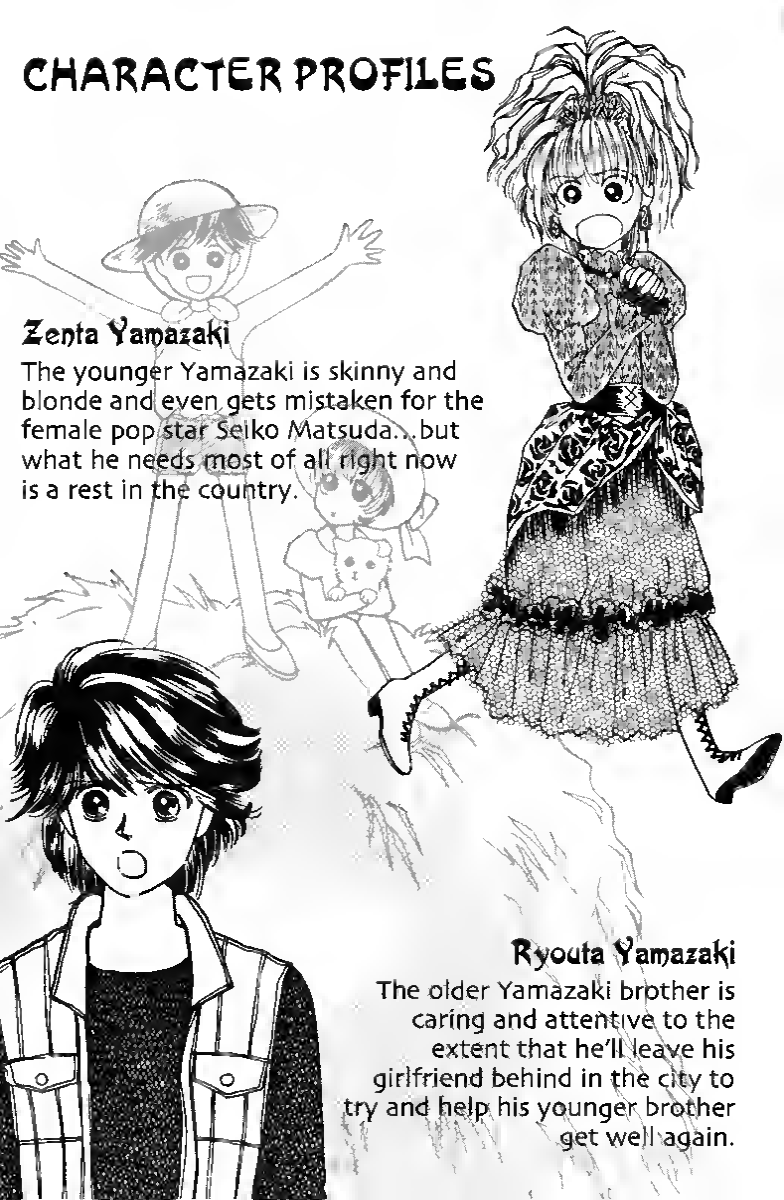
CONTENTS

Character Profiles	6
Love and Peace in a Cornfield	9
The Magic of Love	141
Tomoko's Omake	189



CHARACTER PROFILES

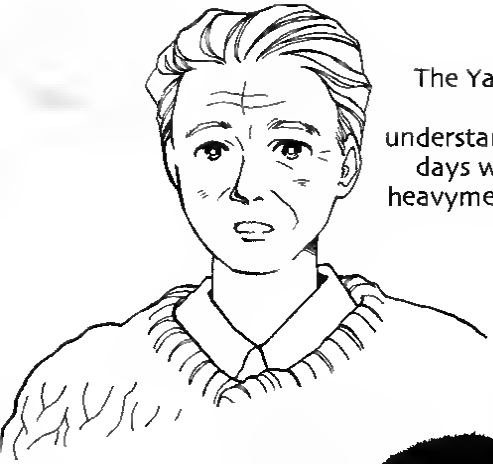


Zenta Yamazaki

The younger Yamazaki is skinny and blonde and even gets mistaken for the female pop star Seiko Matsuda...but what he needs most of all right now is a rest in the country.

Ryouta Yamazaki

The older Yamazaki brother is caring and attentive to the extent that he'll leave his girlfriend behind in the city to try and help his younger brother get well again.



Grandpa Yamazaki

The Yamazaki's old crotchety grandpa just doesn't understand the teenagers these days with their long hair and heavymetal music. How will he deal with his two rocker grandsons?

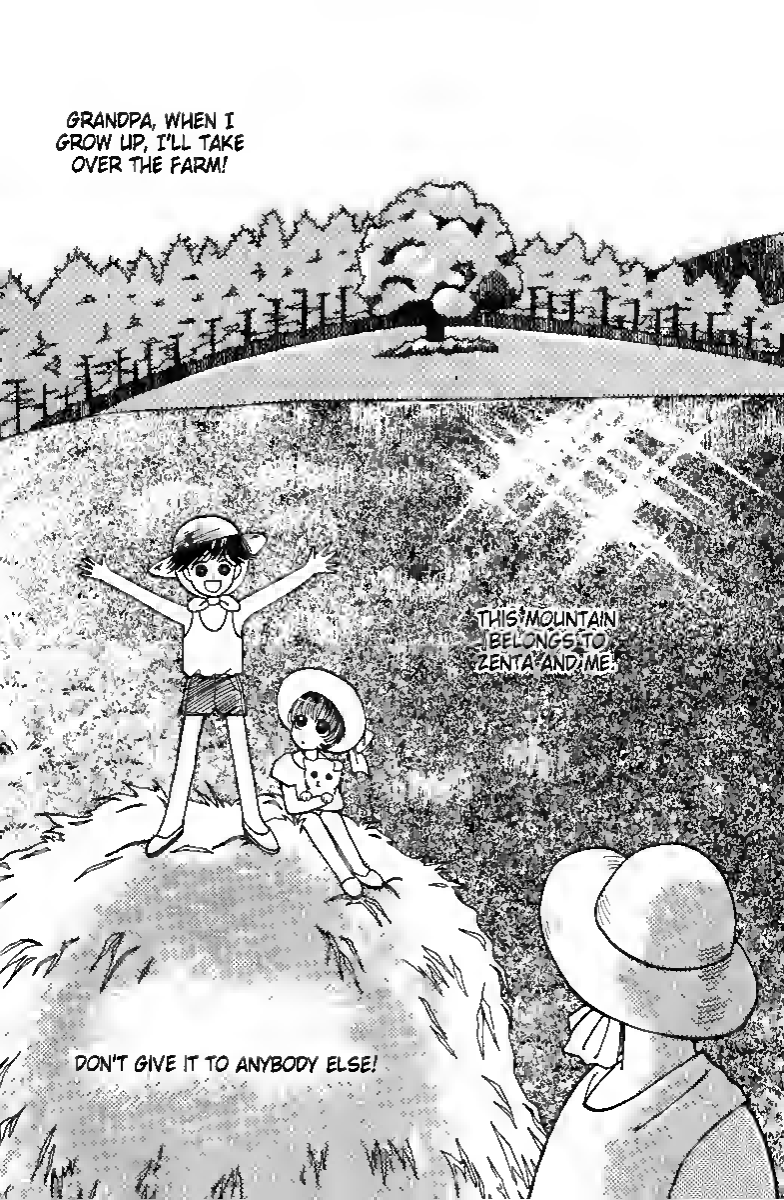
Shima Obata

Ryouta's girlfriend is patient and kind...but how long can a young girl wait for romance?

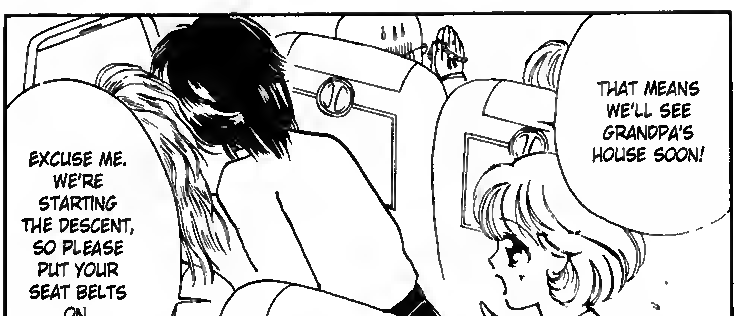
Love and Peace in a Cornfield

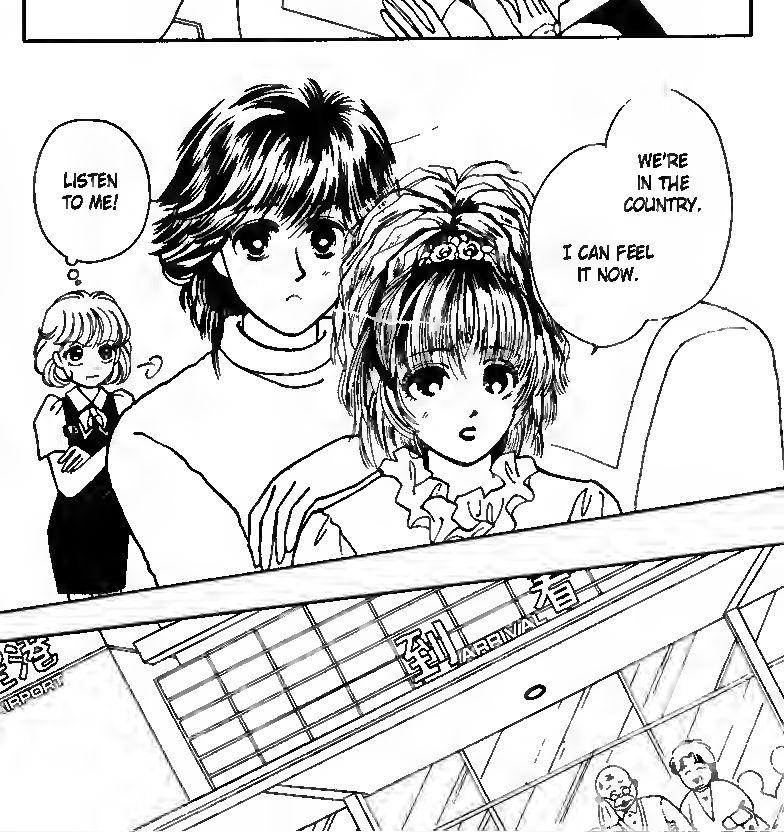
とうきび畑(ばたけ)でラヴ&ピース

ZENTA FOX.


GRANDPA, WHEN I GROW UP, I'LL TAKE OVER THE FARM!
THIS MOUNTAIN BELONGS TO ZENTA AND ME!
DON'T GIVE IT TO ANYBODY ELSE!

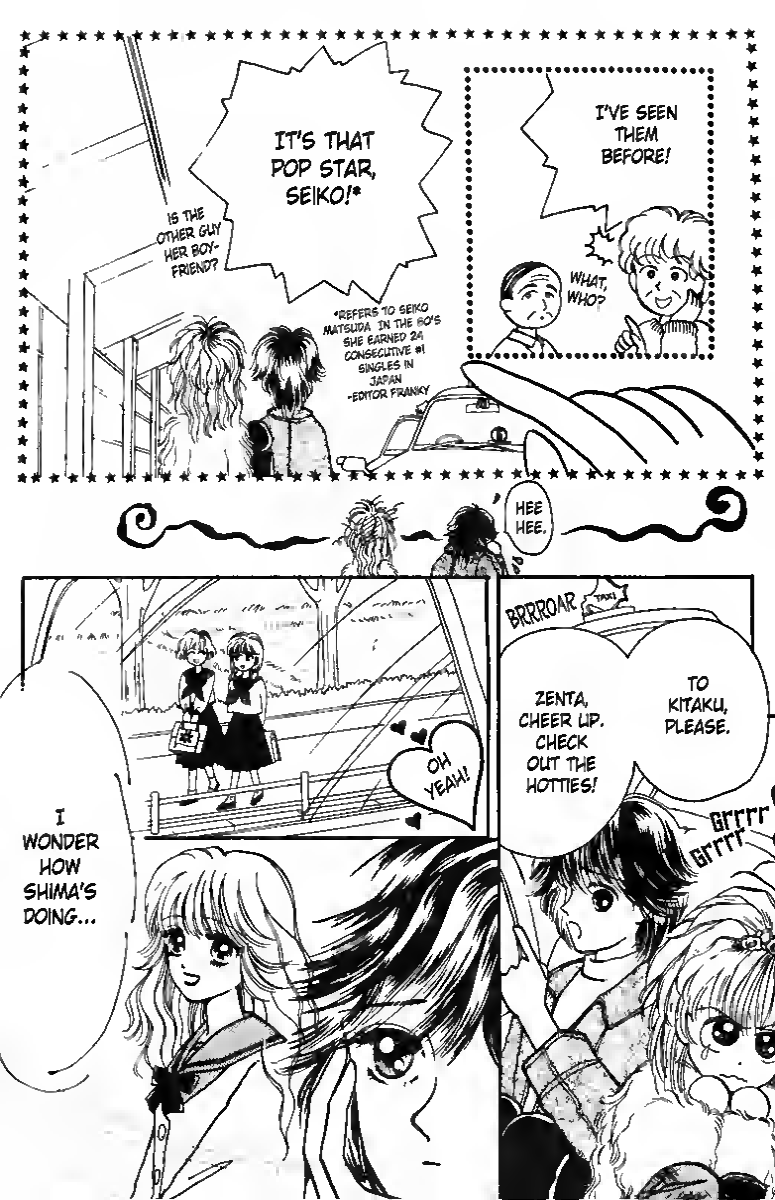
DOES THAT FARM BELONG TO THE MORIKAWAS?

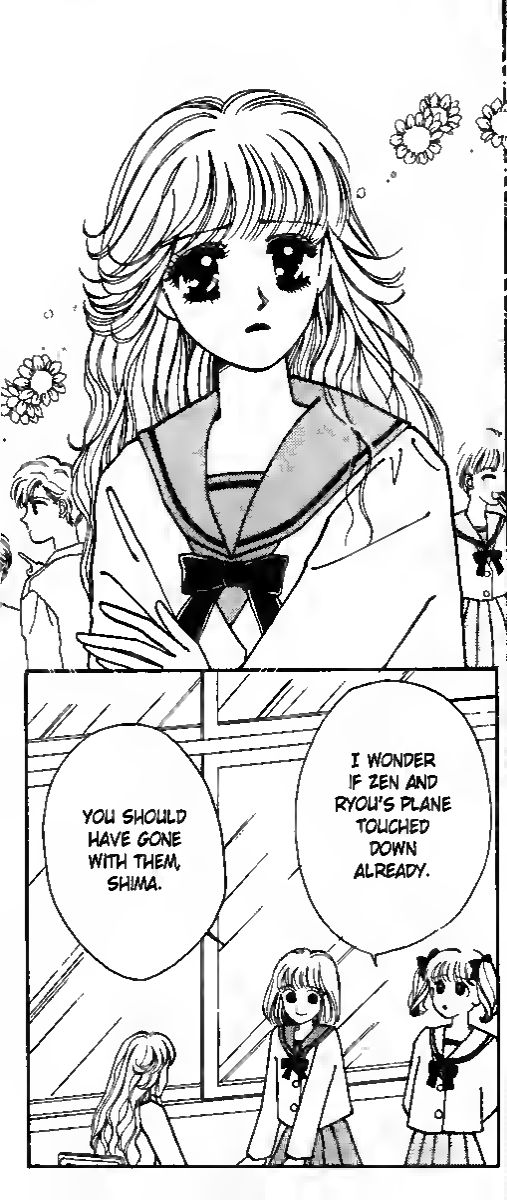

EXCUSE ME. WE'RE STARTING THE DESCENT, SO PLEASE PUT YOUR SEAT BELTS ON.
THAT MEANS WE'LL SEE GRANDPA'S HOUSE SOON!

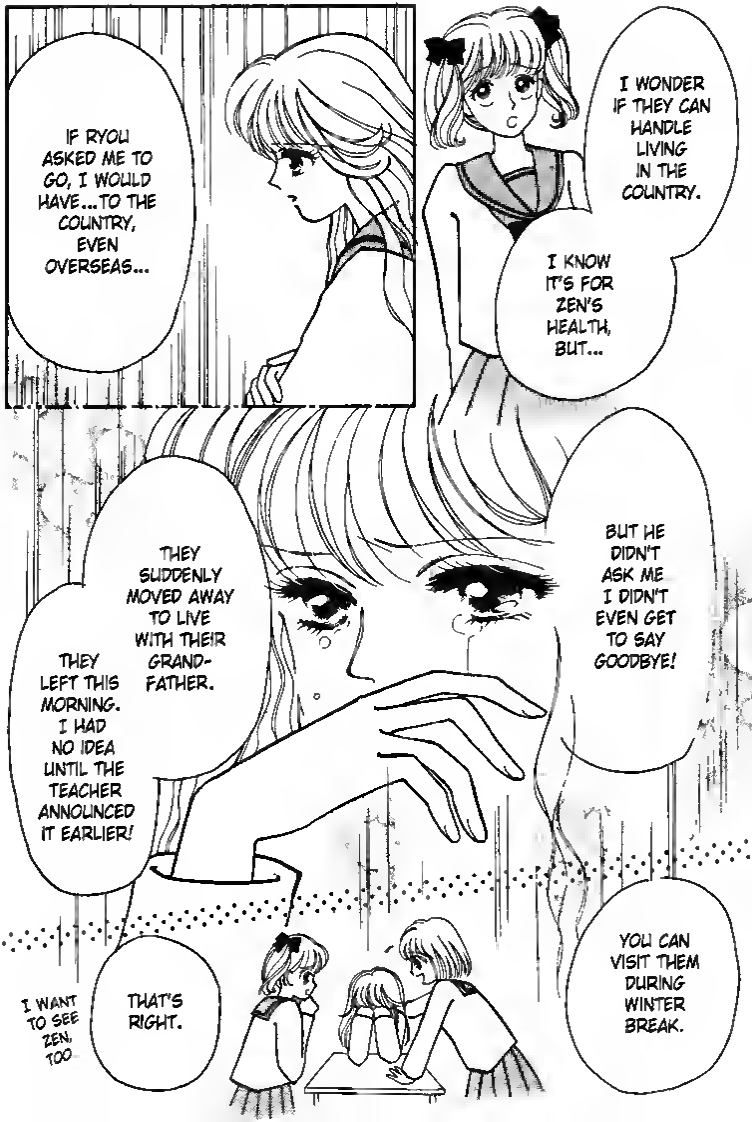

LISTEN TO ME!
WE'RE IN THE COUNTRY.
I CAN FEEL IT NOW.
ARRIVAL
AIRPORT

THE TAXI'S THIS WAY.
THAT'S YOUR LUGGAGE.
IT'S HEAVY!
RYOUTA, CARRY MY BAG!
sluggy
sluggy
sluggy
DRAG
HUFF
CARRY THIS SUITCASE, IT'S EASIER.
I JUST TOOK THEM.
ZENTA, ARE YOU OKAY? IS IT TIME FOR YOUR PILLS?

ぴょん skip skip ぴょん
DARN, HE TRICKED ME!
WOW, IT'S SO LIGHT!
ガラ ガラガラ
THOSE TWO... LOOK AT HIS OUTFIT!
ARE THEY CELEB-RITIES?
YEAH, I'VE SEEN THEM ON TV.
I THINK THEY'RE ZENTA AND RYOUTA YAMAZAKI.
OH MY GOD!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
CAN'T YOU WEAR NORMAL CLOTHES?
LIGHTEN UP. I LOOK GOOD, AND IT'S FUN TO DRESS UP.
WHATEVER.
COOL! THEY RECOGNIZE US OUT HERE!


IT'S THAT POP STAR, SEIKO!*
IS THE OTHER GUY HER BOY-FRIEND?
*REFERS TO SEIKO MATSUDA IN THE 80'S SHE EARNED 24 CONSECUTIVE #1 SINGLES IN JAPAN -EDITOR FRANKY
I'VE SEEN THEM BEFORE!
WHAT, WHO?
HEE HEE.
BRRROAR
TAXI
ZENTA, CHEER UP. CHECK OUT THE HOTTIES!
TO KITAKU, PLEASE.
Grrrr Grrrr
OH YEAH!
I WONDER HOW SHIMA'S DOING...


I LEFT WITHOUT TALKING TO HER.
SHE'S PROBABLY UPSET...
I WONDER IF ZEN AND RYOU'S PLANE TOUCHED DOWN ALREADY.
YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH THEM, SHIMA.


IF RYOU ASKED ME TO GO, I WOULD HAVE...TO THE COUNTRY, EVEN OVERSEAS...
I WONDER IF THEY CAN HANDLE LIVING IN THE COUNTRY.
I KNOW IT'S FOR ZEN'S HEALTH, BUT...
BUT HE DIDN'T ASK ME I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO SAY GOODBYE!
THEY SUDDENLY MOVED AWAY TO LIVE WITH THEIR GRAND-FATHER.
THEY LEFT THIS MORNING. I HAD NO IDEA UNTIL THE TEACHER ANNOUNCED IT EARLIER!
YOU CAN VISIT THEM DURING WINTER BREAK.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I WANT TO SEE ZEN, TOO

BONUS 1.

♥ WOOHOO! MY SEVENTH MANGA! I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO ALL MY READERS, NEW AND OLD ALIKE! I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO RESPOND TO YOUR LETTERS. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT WROTE ME, SAYING "IT'S MY SECOND LETTER" AND "I'LL WRITE AGAIN." PLEASE WAIT FOR ME, I PROMISE TO WRITE BACK (IF THE FIRST LETTER IS MEMORABLE, ALL THE BETTER!) THIS STORY, "LOVE AND PEACE IN A CORNFIELD" WAS BASED ON MY OLD FAMILY HOME. I AM ORIGINALLY FROM HOKKAIDO. HIKARIYA BOOKS IN ABASHIRI HAS SIGNED COPIES OF MY COMICS FOR SALE, SO IF YOU LIVE NEARBY, PLEASE ASK FOR THEM AT THE STORE! ANYWAY, A GOLF COURSE WILL BE REPLACING MY OLD FAMILY FARM. IT'S REALLY TRAGIC, BECAUSE I WAS SO PROUD THAT MY GRANDPA OWNED A LARGE FARM AND A MOUNTAIN...

CONTINUED ON P.62

I WONDER IF SHIMA REMEMBERS...

A YEAR AGO, THE DAY WE FIRST MET...

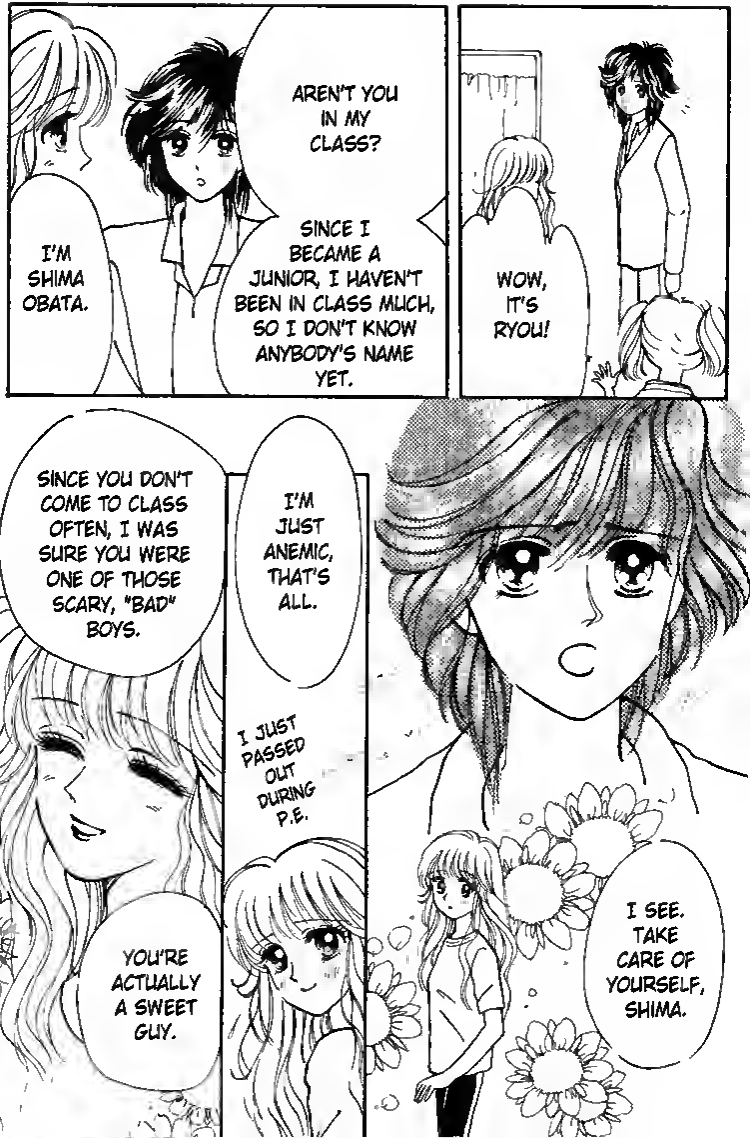
Infirmary

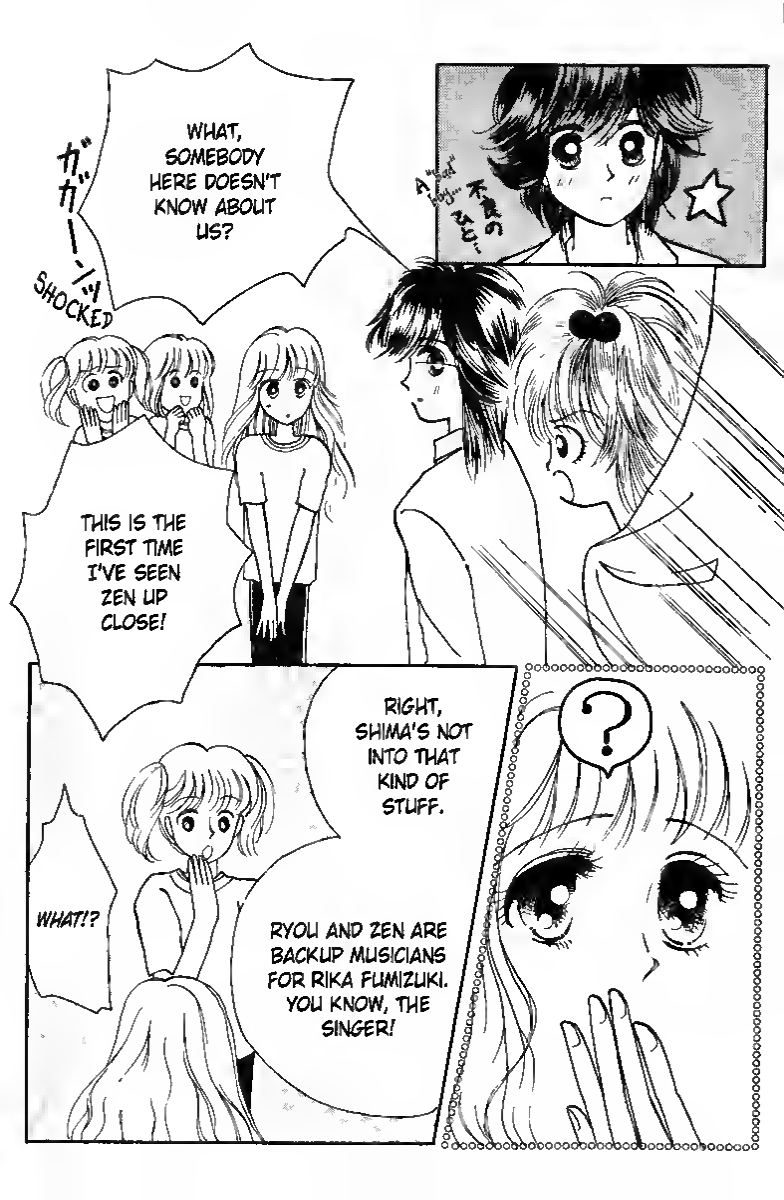
Slide

ZEN, YOU BLACKED OUT AGAIN?

OPEN

MY MISTAKE!
KYAAAA!
CLUNK
RYOU, I'M OVER HERE!
THAT SCARED ME!
AAARGH, I'M FINALLY BACK IN SCHOOL, AND I BLACK OUT!
SEE, YOU NEED TO GO SEE A DOCTOR.
SHIMA, FEELING ANY BETTER?
tok tok


WOW, IT'S RYOU!
AREN'T YOU IN MY CLASS?
SINCE I BECAME A JUNIOR, I HAVEN'T BEEN IN CLASS MUCH, SO I DON'T KNOW ANYBODY'S NAME YET.
I'M SHIMA OBATA.
I JUST PASSED OUT DURING P.E.
I'M JUST ANEMIC, THAT'S ALL.
SINCE YOU DON'T COME TO CLASS OFTEN, I WAS SURE YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE SCARY, "BAD" BOYS.
YOU'RE ACTUALLY A SWEET GUY.
I SEE. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, SHIMA.


WHAT, SOMEBODY HERE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT US?
ガーン!!
SHOCKED
A "real body" KISS AT...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN ZEN UP CLOSE!
RIGHT, SHIMA'S NOT INTO THAT KIND OF STUFF.
RYOU AND ZEN ARE BACKUP MUSICIANS FOR RIKA FUMIZUKI. YOU KNOW, THE SINGER!
WHAT!?
?

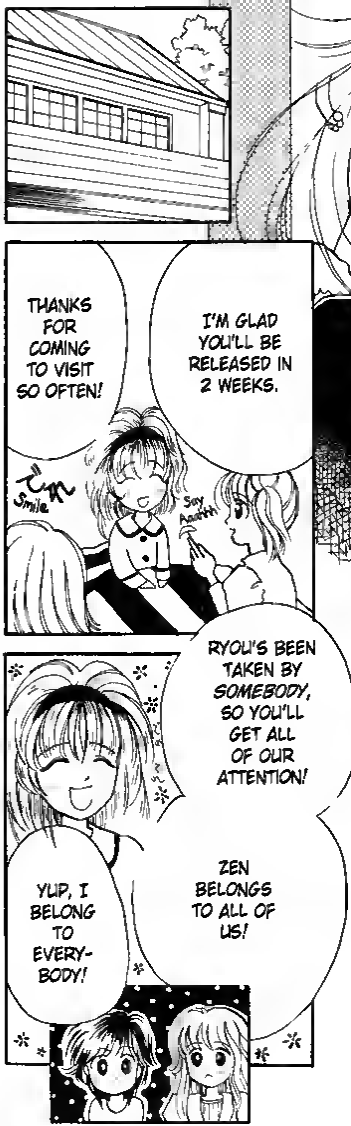
NOW, HALF THE PEOPLE AT HER CONCERTS ARE THERE TO SEE RYOU AND ZEN.
ペラ Yak
ペラ Yak
THAT WAS WHAT THE MANAGERS WANTED.
WHEN THEY DEBUT ON THEIR OWN, THEIR CONCERT WILL PROBABLY BE SOLD OUT, HUH?
WOW...
WHAT? YOU DON'T SOUND TOO EXCITED!
I'M JUST SO SURPRISED, I'M SPEECHLESS.
SHE SEEMED SO DELICATE...
クス... Smile
SHE MADE ME WANT TO TAKE CARE OF HER.

CHEER
わーっ
YES, OUR FUTURE--
--WAS HAPPENING, JUST LIKE OUR DREAM.
ビシ°ちゃ
ZEN!
HOWEVER--
COUGH
Drip
ポタ…

ZENTA!
キャー
SCREAM
--OUR LIFE CHANGED THAT VERY MOMENT.
ARE YOU HIS BROTHER? ARE YOUR PARENTS... LEGAL GUARDIANS HERE YET?
OUR PARENTS PASSED AWAY. I HAVE A GRANDFATHER THAT LIVES FAR AWAY.
IF YOU WANT YOUR BROTHER TO LIVE MUCH LONGER--
--GET OUT OF SHOW BUSINESS NOW.

EVERYBODY, GET OUT! THIS IS A HOSPITAL, KIDS!
HE HAS A CHRONIC, GENETIC CONDITION.
TO PREVENT MORE PROBLEMS, HE NEEDS A HEALTHY, NORMAL LIFESTYLE.
LIVE MUCH LONGER...
IS ZENTA GOING TO DIE?
RYOU, IS ZEN ALL RIGHT!?
SHIMA...!
IT'S OK. THEY'RE MY CLASSMATES.

R...RYOUTA!
NOT IN FRONT OF THE FANS!
バタ
Rush
バタ
Rush
I...I'M SORRY.
IT'S OK.
YOU'RE ALWAYS THE STRONG, CARING BROTHER.
SOMETIMES, YOU NEED SUPPORT, TOO.

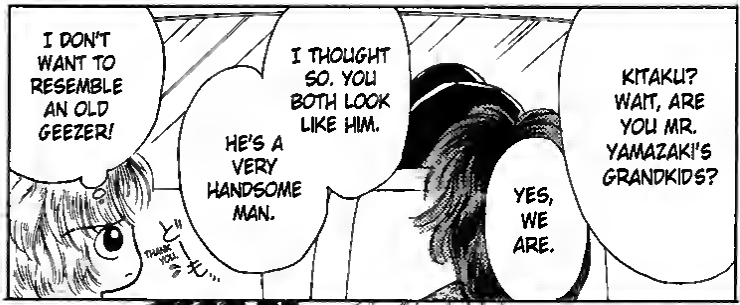

I'M GLAD YOU'LL BE RELEASED IN 2 WEEKS.
THANKS FOR COMING TO VISIT SO OFTEN!
Smile
Soy Asahi!
RYOU'S BEEN TAKEN BY SOMEBODY, SO YOU'LL GET ALL OF OUR ATTENTION!
ZEN BELONGS TO ALL OF US!
YUP, I BELONG TO EVERY-BODY!

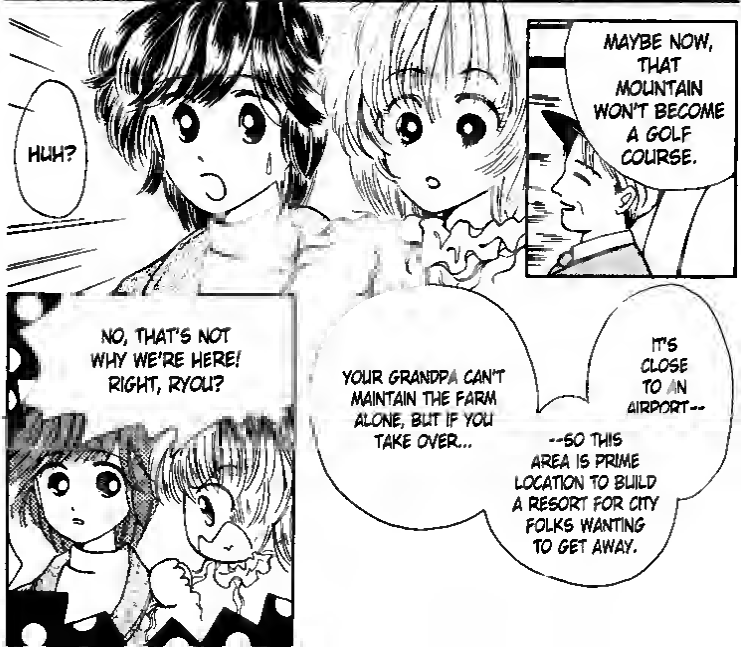
I'M FINE. THEY GAVE ME LOTS OF NUTRIENTS THROUGH THE I.V.
IF YOU COLLAPSE AGAIN, IT'LL END UP CAUSING MORE PROBLEMS, RIGHT?
ALL THAT REST MADE ME GAIN WEIGHT!
ZENTA, LET'S GO VISIT GRANDPA.
THE FRESH AIR AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE COUNTRY WILL HELP YOU GET BETTER.
WE'RE ABOUT TO DEBUT ON OUR OWN--
--WITHOUT RIKA FUMIZUKI.
WE CAN'T STOP NOW!
IT IS AN IMPORTANT TIME RIGHT NOW. THAT'S WHY IT'S CRUCIAL THAT YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH.
RYOUTA, YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON TAKING OVER GRANDPA'S FARM, RIGHT?
WE CAN RESUME WHEN YOU'RE HEALTHY.
WE WON'T HAVE ANOTHER CHOICE UNLESS YOU GET BETTER!

FINE, I'LL GET STRONGER, AND WE'LL GET OUR CAREERS BACK!!
OUR PARENTS WERE KILLED IN A CAR ACCIDENT 5 YEARS AGO.
I WAS SO SCARED THAT--
--I MIGHT LOSE ZENTA TOO.
YOU MIGHT BE AS SMALL AS ZENTA--
--BUT YOUR STRONG CHEST HELPED ME OUT A LOT.

I'M JUST JOKING.
I'M GLAD. SO I WAS HELPFUL?
I MEANT YOUR SUPPORT...
MY STRONG CHEST? YOU PERVERT!
THANK YOU, SHIMA.

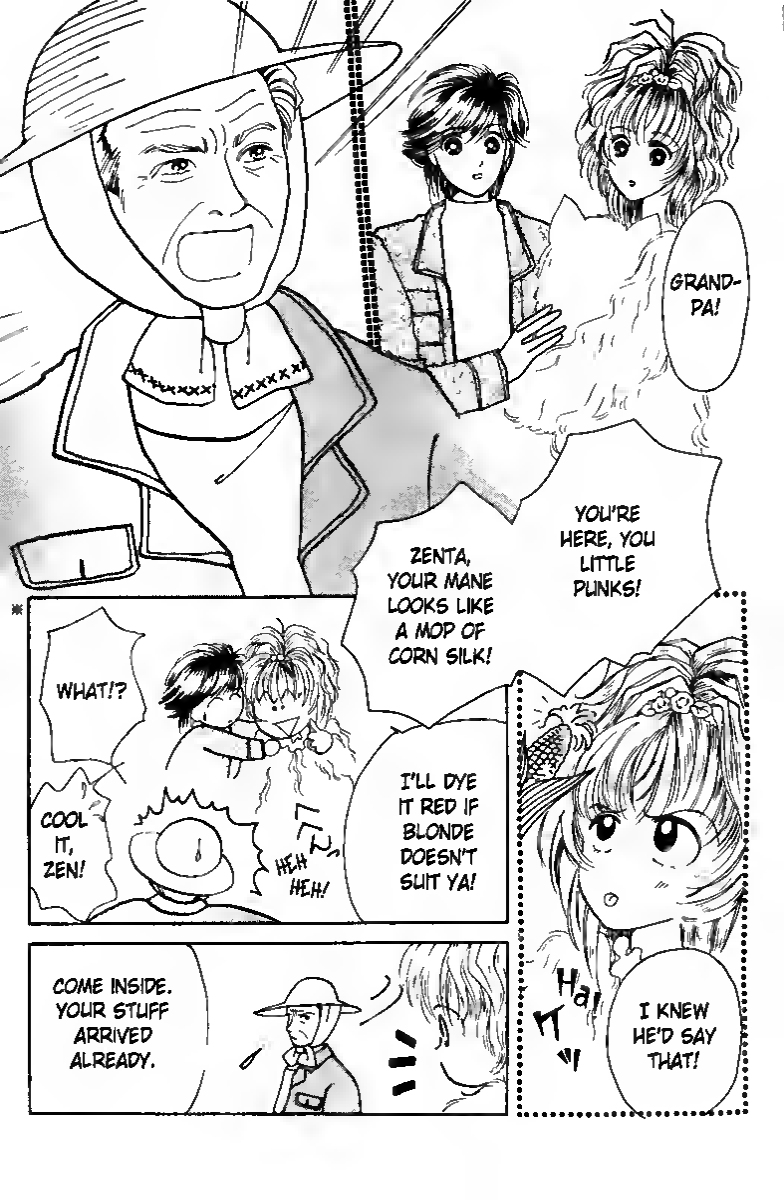
I MEAN IT.
I LOVE YOU.
OBATA
I WANTED TO ASK HER TO JOIN ME, BUT I COULDN'T EVEN SAY GOODBYE...


KITAKU? WAIT, ARE YOU MR. YAMAZAKI'S GRANDKIDS?
YES, WE ARE.
I THOUGHT SO. YOU BOTH LOOK LIKE HIM.
HE'S A VERY HANDSOME MAN.
I DON'T WANT TO RESEMBLE AN OLD GEEZER!
THANK YOU...

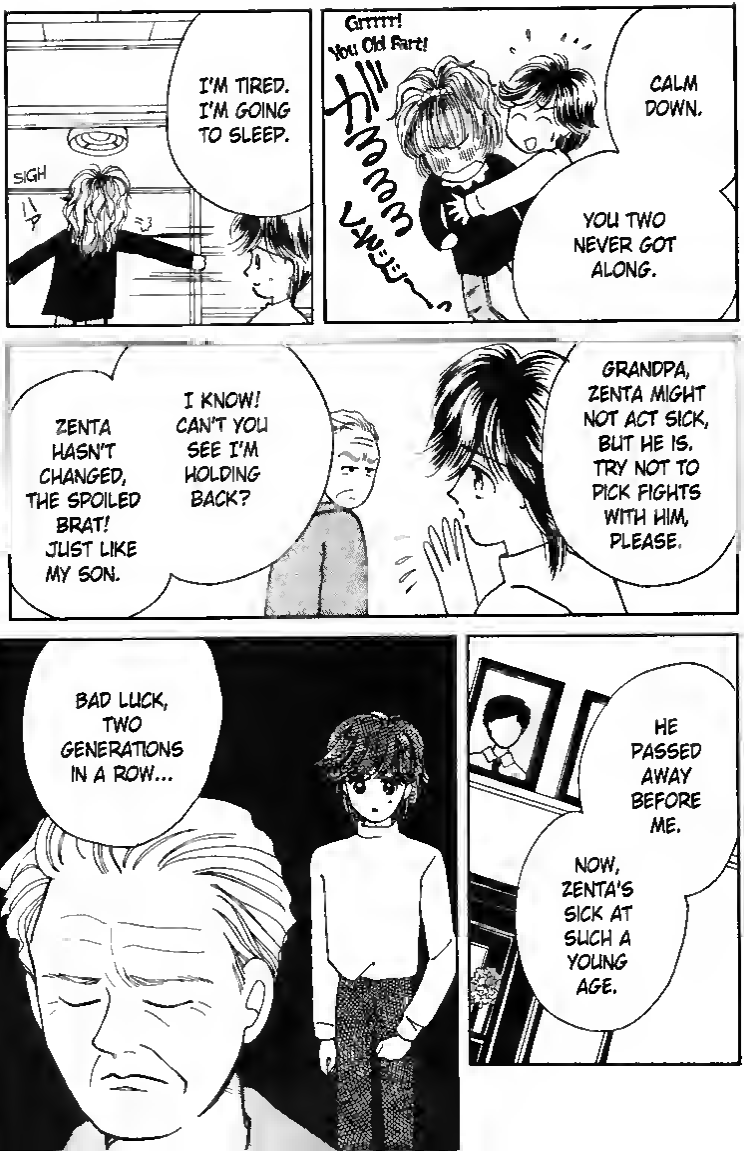

MAYBE NOW, THAT MOUNTAIN WON'T BECOME A GOLF COURSE.
HUH?
IT'S CLOSE TO AN AIRPORT--
--SO THIS AREA IS PRIME LOCATION TO BUILD A RESORT FOR CITY FOLKS WANTING TO GET AWAY.
YOUR GRANDPA CAN'T MAINTAIN THE FARM ALONE, BUT IF YOU TAKE OVER...
NO, THAT'S NOT WHY WE'RE HERE! RIGHT, RYOU?

WOW!
GOOD-BYE!
YOUNG LADY?
WE'RE HERE. YOU'RE AN ENERGETIC YOUNG LADY!
TELL YOUR GRANDPA I SAID HI.
ブッブー

WE HAVEN'T BEEN BACK IN 5 YEARS, SINCE MOM AND DAD PASSED AWAY.
IT HASN'T CHANGED.
GULP GULP GULP
CLEAN THE LUNGS
FRESH AIR! I'LL BE BETTER IN A FLASH!
I HOPE SO!
Inhale
スー…
SPITZ AREN'T POPULAR LIKE THEY USED TO BE.
ARF ARF!
ワン ワン
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
OH CHIBI!
CHIBI THINKS YOU'RE HER BOY-FRIEND!
RIKITTA


GRAND-PA!
YOU'RE HERE, YOU LITTLE PUNKS!
ZENTA, YOUR MANE LOOKS LIKE A MOP OF CORN SILK!
I'LL DYE IT RED IF BLONDE DOESN'T SUIT YA!
WHAT!?
COOL IT, ZEN!
HE-H HE-H!
I KNEW HE'D SAY THAT!
Ha!
COME INSIDE. YOUR STUFF ARRIVED ALREADY.

NO WONDER YOU'RE SICK, LOOK AT THOSE BONY ARMS AND LEGS.
HE'S GETTING OLDER. HE'S NOT THAT OLD YET, BUT...
GRAMPS MELLOWED OUT. HE WOULD HAVE SMACKED ME BACK THEN.
ZEN, GETTIN' IN TROUBLE AGAIN, HUH?
SMACK!
O/WWW!
AND THOSE TORN-UP PANTS.
ANYWAY...
I LIKE THE WAY I LOOK!
I'LL PUT MEAT ON YOUR BONES.
WERE YOU ABLE TO AFFORD A HAIRCUT, I HOPE?
COULDN'T AFFORD NEW PANTS OR A DECENT MEAL, HUH?
GIRLS LIKE SKINNY GUYS, OKAY?
CITY LIFE WITH WHAT YOUR PARENTS LEFT YOU MUST HAVE BEEN HARD.
CHILL OUT, ZEN!

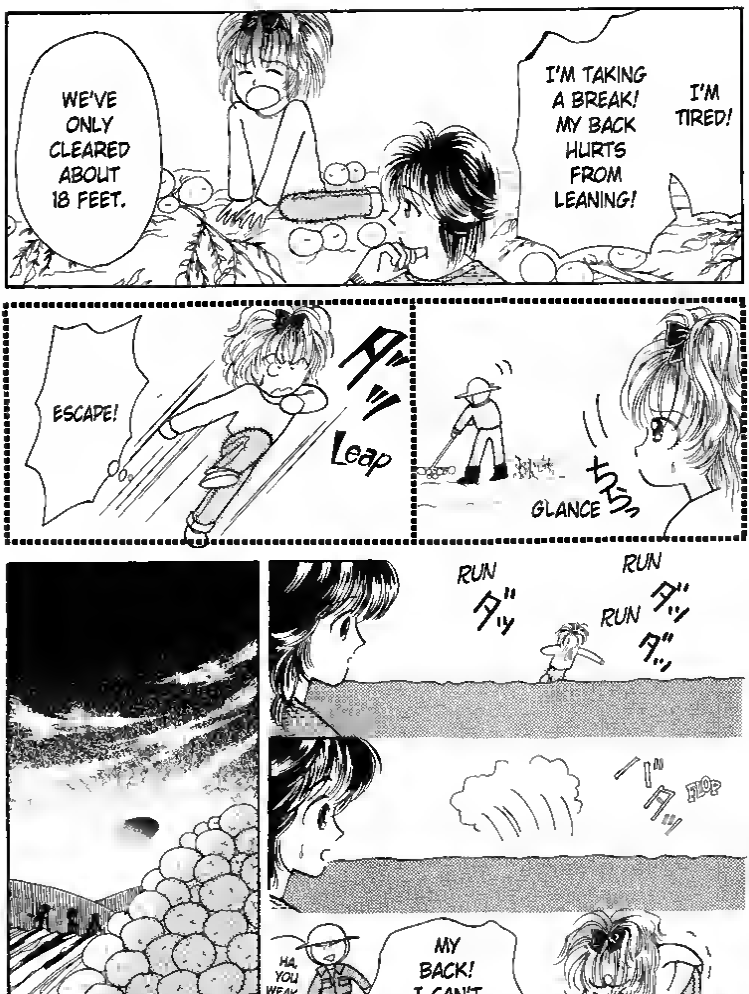

I'M TIRED. I'M GOING TO SLEEP.
SIGH
Grrrrr! You Old Fart!
ガシッ
ソーサツジン～～っ
CALM DOWN.
YOU TWO NEVER GOT ALONG.
GRANDPA, ZENTA MIGHT NOT ACT SICK, BUT HE IS. TRY NOT TO PICK FIGHTS WITH HIM, PLEASE.
I KNOW! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M HOLDING BACK?
ZENTA HASN'T CHANGED, THE SPOILED BRAT! JUST LIKE MY SON.
BAD LUCK, TWO GENERATIONS IN A ROW...
HE PASSED AWAY BEFORE ME.
NOW, ZENTA'S SICK AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE.

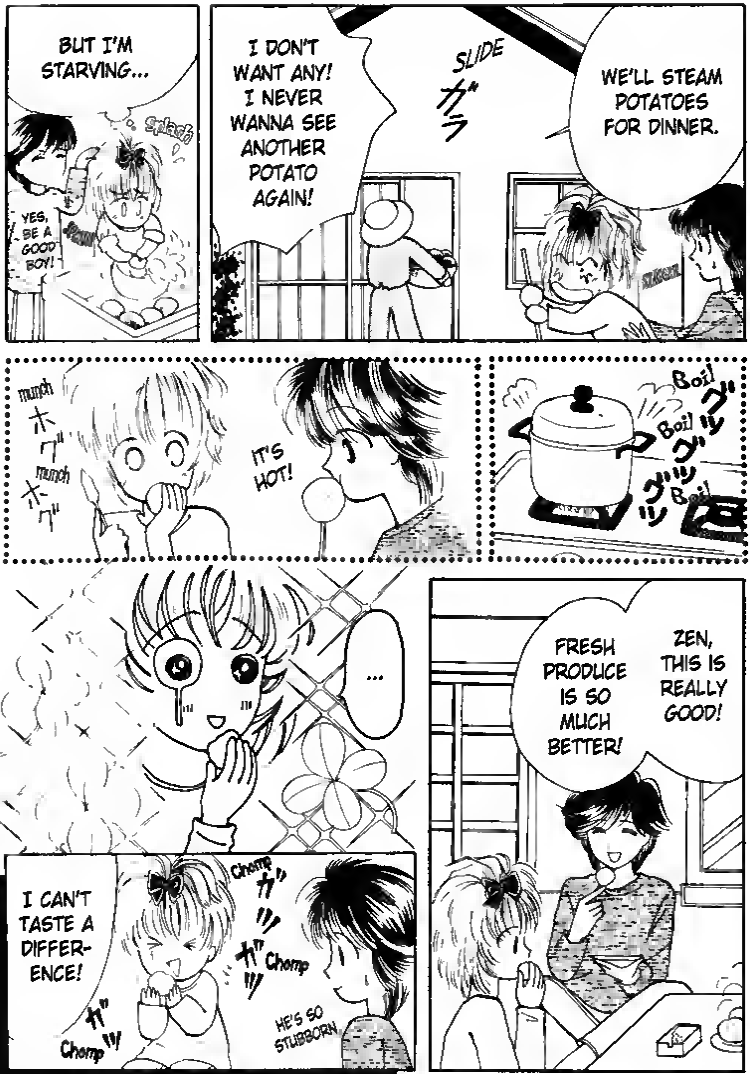
WHY DON'T YOU WRITE TO SHIMA?
I TOOK A NAP. I WANT TO WRITE LETTERS.
ZEN WHY DON'T YOU GO TO BED?
I SUCK AT WRITING LETTERS.
I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO WRITE...
IT'S NOON ALREADY! I CAN'T BELIEVE GRAMPS LET US SLEEP IN!

A WIDE, OPEN FIELD...
WHATCHA DOIN'?
MASH ふみ
CRUSH ふみ
STARE ザク
STARE ザク
STARE ザク
I'M MAKING CROP CIRCLES!

WHAT, YOU DON'T WANNA JOIN ME?
YOU IDIOT!
Ha!
I DO, SURE!
CRUNCH
CRUSH
CRUNCH
OOOPS, HE CAUGHT US ALREADY.
I WANTED PEOPLE TO SEE IT TOMORROW AND FREAK OUT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?
I'VE LEASED THIS PLOT TO THE NEIGHBORS FOR GRAZING!

I THOUGHT I WOULD LET YOU SLEEP IN, BUT YOU BOTH SEEM ENERGETIC.
I HAVE TOO MUCH LAND TO CARE FOR ALONE.
YOU MEAN THE PEOPLE WAY OUT THERE?
NEIGHBORS?
THAT BLACK DOT IS A COW...
HELP ME DIG POTATOES.
UGH!
GRAMPS, DON'T YOU USE MACHINES FOR THIS? DON'T YOU HAVE A TRACTOR?
I CAN'T AFFORD TO RENT A TRACTOR.
I BORROW MY NEIGHBORS', BUT SINCE YOU'RE BOTH HERE, I WON'T HAVE TO!
WHAT? THAT'S NOT FAIR!


WE'VE ONLY CLEARED ABOUT 18 FEET.
I'M TAKING A BREAK! MY BACK HURTS FROM LEANING!
I'M TIRED!
ESCAPE!
ダッ
Leap
ちら
GLANCE
RUN
ダッ
RUN
RUN
ダッ
ダッ
ダッ
FLOP
HA, YOU WEAKLING!
MY BACK! I CAN'T RUN...


BUT I'M STARVING...
Splash
YES, BE A GOOD BOY!
I DON'T WANT ANY! I NEVER WANNA SEE ANOTHER POTATO AGAIN!
SLIDE
ガラ
WE'LL STEAM POTATOES FOR DINNER.
munch
ホグ
munch
ホグ
IT'S HOT!
Boil!
グツ
Boil!
グツ
Boil!
グツ
...
I CAN'T TASTE A DIFFER-ENCE!
Chomp
ガ
Chomp
ガ
Chomp
ガ
HE'S SO STUBBORN
FRESH PRODUCE IS SO MUCH BETTER!
ZEN, THIS IS REALLY GOOD!

ZZZZZZ
LOOK AT HIS GOOFY FACE!
SNORE
THE FANS WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED IF THEY SAW HIM NOW!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
SHIMA, IF YOU WERE HERE--
--I'M SURE YOU WOULD BE HELPING ME.
MAYBE NOT. SHE'S NOT STRONG, JUST LIKE ZEN.
SPARE ME GRAMPS! I'M STILL SORE!
YOU CAN DIG ONIONS TODAY!

LET'S GO HOME, ZEN!
UH, GO AHEAD!

ZEN WANTS TO BE BACK IN THE LIMELIGHT...
pop ひょこっ
IT WAS OUR DREAM, AFTER ALL.
pop ひょこ
BARK わんッ
ガサッ RUSTLE
ガサッ
もガガ SMOTHER

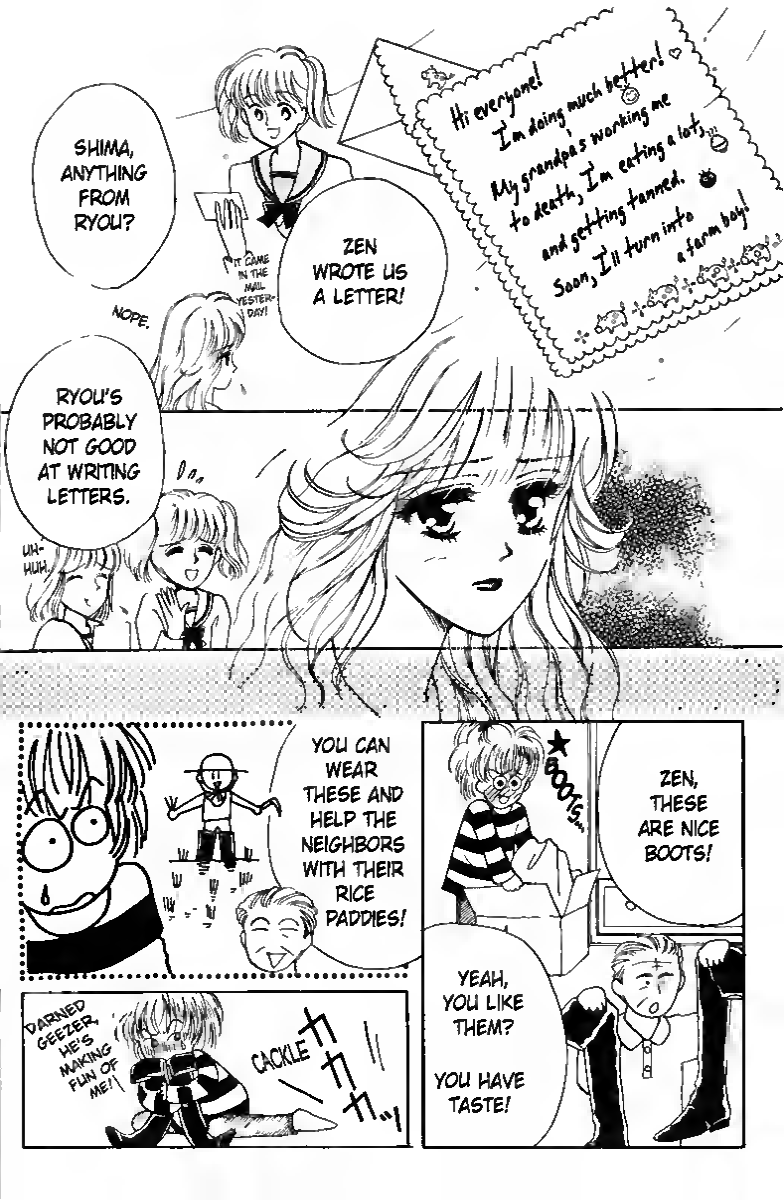
Pop
ぴょん
pop
ぴょこ
ぴょこ
pop
WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?
OOOPS!
Leap
YOU HAVE A GREAT VOICE.
EVEN THE ANIMALS LIKE IT!
FOR ROCK AND ROLL, I'D RATHER HAVE AN EDGIER VOICE.
MY VOICE IS SUITED FOR CHORUS RATHER THAN LEAD VOCALS!
ZEN, YOU REMIND ME OF SNOW WHITE.

ZEN, YOU CAN'T DIG ONIONS IN THAT GETUP!
LEAVE ME ALONE!
もん Dream もん Dream もん Dream
EXCUSE ME

HERE WE GO...
La
La
La
I'VE STIMULATED HIS ARTISTIC SIDE...
ZEN'S A BORN ENTERTAINER.
IS HE PLANNING TO SING ALL DAY?
IT'S GOOD FOR HIM.
I'M GLAD HE HAS AN AUDIENCE AGAIN.

WHAAAT!?
I'M NOT GOING TO DEAL WITH HIM ANYMORE!
RYOU, YOU'RE GONNA MAKE UP FOR ZEN SLACKING OFF TODAY!
OH, THEY'RE OCOJO.*
GRAMPS, IT'S BIGGER THAN A SQUIRREL, BUT SMALLER THAN A FOX, WITH CUTE, ROUND EYES.
WHAT ARE THEY?
THEY'LL HURT!
THEY'RE CUTE--
--BUT DON'T TRY TO CATCH THEM.
YEAH, LOTS OF THEM.
YOU SAW THEM AGAIN?
THEY'RE OCOJO!
I THINK YOU'RE RUINING HIS IDEALISTIC IMAGE.
...

*IT IS SPECIAL KIND OF FERRET NATIVE TO HOKKAIDO THE MORE PROPER JAPANESE NAME IS EZO-ITACHI, WHICH MEANS "HOKKAIDO WEASEL" -THANKS FOR THE INFO TOMOKO!-


Hi everyone!
I'm doing much better!
My grandpa's working me to death, I'm eating a lot, and getting tanned.
Soon, I'll turn into a farm boy!
SHIMA, ANYTHING FROM RYOU?
ZEN WROTE US A LETTER!
IT CAME IN THE MAIL YESTERDAY!
NOPE.
RYOU'S PROBABLY NOT GOOD AT WRITING LETTERS.
UH-HUH.
YOU CAN WEAR THESE AND HELP THE NEIGHBORS WITH THEIR RICE PADDIES!
DARNED GEEZER, HE'S MAKING FUN OF ME!
CACKLE カカカ
ZEN, THESE ARE NICE BOOTS!
BOOTS
YEAH, YOU LIKE THEM?
YOU HAVE TASTE!

IF YOU TAKE OVER THE FARM AFTER ME, I WON'T SELL THE LAND.
THE TAXI DRIVER TOLD ME.
I HEARD THAT THIS PLACE IS GOING TO BECOME A GOLF COURSE.
TURN ALL OF THIS INTO A GOLF COURSE, AND PEOPLE WILL FLY OUT HERE TO PLAY GOLF. SO, THEY WANT ME TO SELL MY LAND, SINCE IT COULD HELP THEM BOOST THE LOCAL ECONOMY.
YUP, THE LAND NEXT TO THE MOUNTAIN BELONGS TO THE CITY.
NO, WE'RE NOT TAKING OVER THE FARM!
I DON'T WANT STRANGERS BUYING THIS LAND.
BUT IF THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN...
RIGHT? WE'RE GONNA GO BACK AS SOON AS I'M BETTER!

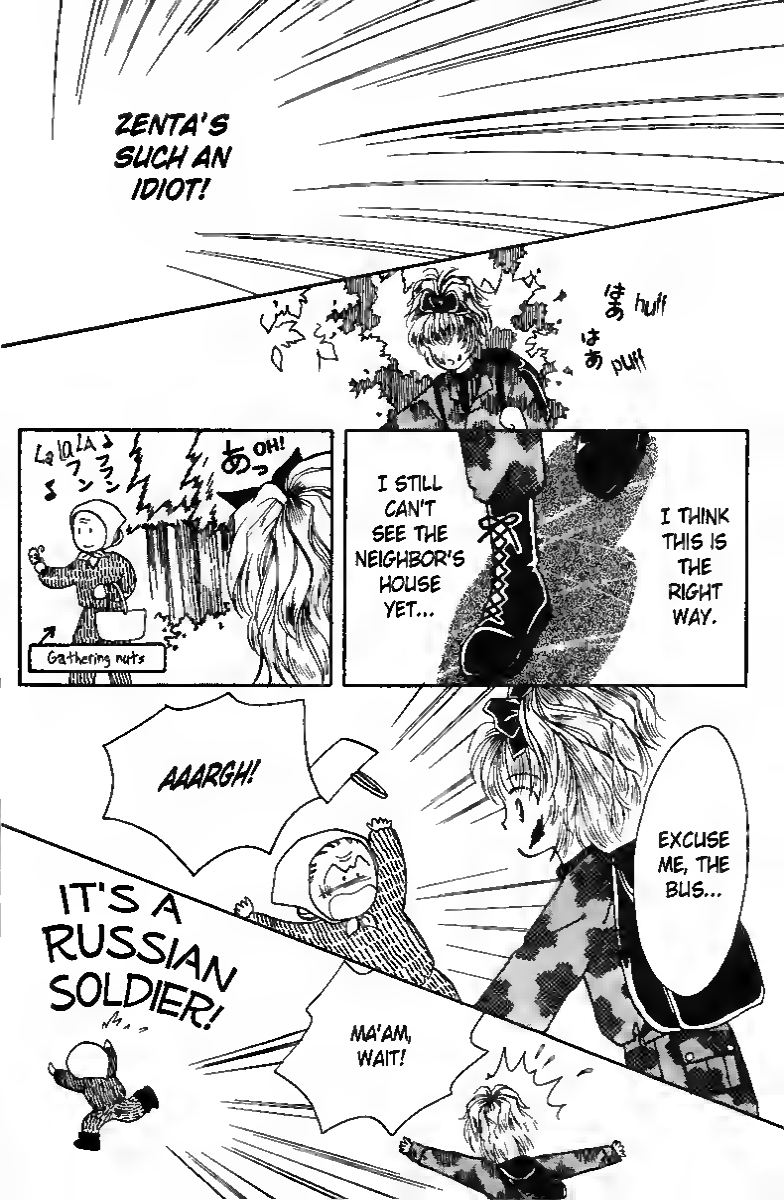
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I PROMISED GRANDPA THAT I WOULD TAKE OVER THE FARM...
SOB... MY HANDS HAVE GOTTEN SO ROUGH.
I'M TANNED, AND MY BACK HURTS.
WITH RYOU ACTING LIKE THAT--
--WE'RE GONNA BE STUCK HERE FOREVER!
I'M RUNNING AWAY!!
KNOT
FACE COLOR フェイスカラー

SLAM
THANKS!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
SIGH

HI! I DECIDED TO COME VISIT.
IT'S THE WEEKEND, SO...

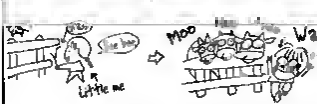
I'M GLAD I CAME. YOU DIDN'T CALL OR WRITE, AND--
THAT'S OK. I GOT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
I'M SORRY.
I DIDN'T EVEN SAY GOODBYE!
--I WAS SO LONELY WITHOUT YOU LAST WEEK.
DO YOUR PARENTS KNOW!?
IT'S NICE TO HAVE A HOME LIKE THIS.
HOW IS ZEN FEELING? HE SOUNDED FINE, FROM THE LETTER.
YEAH, THEY DO. IT'S BEAUTIFUL HERE!
WHERE IS HE ANYWAY?
HE NEEDS TO HELP WITH DINNER.

FROM MY HONEY!
WHAT IS IT, CHIBI?
Ryou, I'm gonna go back! from, the Runaway
HE FORGOT HIS PILLS!
HE FORGETS THE IMPORTANT STUFF!
GRANDPA, DOES A BUS COME THROUGH HERE?
HE RAN AWAY?
THE CLOSEST BUS STATION IS ABOUT AN HOUR FROM HERE BY FOOT.
OH NO!
HE WON'T MAKE IT, WITH HIS CONDITION!


ZENTA'S SUCH AN IDIOT!
はあ huff
はあ puff
I STILL CAN'T SEE THE NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE YET...
I THINK THIS IS THE RIGHT WAY.
La la la
ラララ
あっ OH!
Gathering nuts
AAARGH!
EXCUSE ME, THE BUS...
IT'S A RUSSIAN SOLDIER!
MA'AM, WAIT!

AAAAH!
ギャー
WHAT, A RUSSIAN SOLDIER? WHAT DID YOU SEE?
OOOPS やば
CRUMBLE
Huff はあ
RYOUTA!

BONUS 2. WHEN I WAS LITTLE, THERE WERE HORSES AND COWS ON THE FARM. I LIKED BIG ANIMALS, SO I WANTED TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO PET THEM. AS SOON AS I GOT CLOSE ENOUGH, THEY WOULD RUN AWAY! SO I WOULD SLOWLY CREEP UP TO THEM AGAIN (LAUGH). IF YOU SAY "BEE BEE" FOR COWS AND "PO PO" FOR HORSES, THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO COME TO YOU. I FIGURED THEY WOULDN'T COME NEAR ME, SO I CALLED OUT, FROM FAR AWAY, "BEE BEE." I WAS SHOCKED WHEN THREE OR FOUR COWS CAME RUNNING OVER! ALSO, A WHILE BACK, THE SPITZ WAS A POPULAR BREED. IF YOU HAVE ONE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!



CHIBI, MY GRANDFATHER'S SPITZ, ♡ WAS MY FAVORITE, BUT CHIBI PASSED AWAY ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO.

I HAVEN'T HAD DREAMS ABOUT HER SINCE SHE PASSED AWAY...CONTINUED ON P. 67.

RYOU...
I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK. RYOU, YOU STAY HERE.
CHIBI, COME!
I'M SORRY YOUNG LADY. YOU'RE HERE FOR A VISIT, AND THIS MESS HAPPENS!
IS ZEN'S CONDITION THAT SERIOUS?
I HAVEN'T TOLD HIM, BUT I WAS TOLD THAT OUR LIFESTYLE WOULD SHORTEN HIS LIFE SPAN.
IT'S A CHRONIC CONDITION.

BRIGHT LIGHTS, SCREAMING GIRLS. ZEN LOVED THE STAGE SO MUCH.
YAMAHA
TO PLAY MUSIC FOR THE CROWD... THAT WAS OUR DREAM.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO REALIZE OUR DREAM, BUT...
SO YOU'RE BOTH NOT COMING BACK?
IN THIS ENVIRONMENT, HE MIGHT GET BETTER.
WE WERE PLANNING TO FINISH ANYWAY, ALTHOUGH WE WERE ABSENT A LOT.
WHEN ZENTA'S BETTER, WE'LL FINISH HIGH SCHOOL HERE.

Crunch
Rustle
WE FOUND ONE ASLEEP HERE!
IT'S THE GUY FROM THE OTHER TEAM! LET'S GET HIM!
WHO ARE THEY?

WHICH IDIOT GOT CAPTURED? I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS THE SEVENTH SURVIVAL GAME, AND WE LOST.
DROP YOUR WEAPONS! WE HAVE A HOSTAGE!
THE WOMAN SAID SOMETHING ABOUT RUSSIAN SOLDIERS.
わっせ CARRY
わっせ LIFT
WE GOT A HOSTAGE!
SHE WAS RIGHT!
THIS GIRL ISN'T ON OUR TEAM.
Thud
IT'S NOT A GIRL. HE'S WEARING A WIG, RIGHT? WHO IS IT?
HE'S WEARING A SIMILAR UNIFORM....
IF HE'S ONE OF US, HOW COME WE DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS?
!
Aaargh!
IT'S A GHOST!

BONUS 3.

CONTINUED FROM P. 62

AFTER I WROTE THIS MANGA, CHIBI APPEARED IN MY DREAM SEVERAL TIMES. I FELT THAT SHE CAME BACK TO VISIT ME!

I REALLY DID LOVE THAT DOG!

MY GRANDPA'S APPEARED IN MY DREAMS LATELY, TOO. I HAVEN'T DREAMED ABOUT HIM MUCH SINCE HE PASSED AWAY 10 YEARS AGO. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS PROJECT. ONE TIME, WHEN MY COUSIN WAS HAVING A LOT OF PROBLEMS, GRANDPA APPEARED IN HIS DREAM AND TOLD HIM NOT TO WORRY. MY COUSIN'S WIFE HAD NEVER MET GRANDPA, BUT SHE HAD A DREAM ABOUT A GUY WITH A LARGE MOLE NEXT TO HIS NOSE. GRANDPA HAD A HUGE MOLE NEXT TO HIS NOSE (KIND OF WEIRD)! IN MY DREAM, GRANDPA WAS ANGRY AT ME. I THINK HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME, AND FINALLY DECIDED TO LET ME KNOW.

SORRY, GRANDPA!

THE GRANDPA IN THIS STORY IS BASED ON HARRISON FORD. →

MY GRANDPA WAS MORE LIKE YUL BRENNER. HE WAS HANDSOME, AND DIDN'T LOOK VERY JAPANESE.

GRANDPA, DID YOU FIND HIM?
NO, BUT I'M GOING TO ALERT THE NEIGHBORS.
HELLO. THIS IS MR. YAMAZAKI. I WANTED...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YES, MY GRANDSON.
WHAT? MR. OOMI'S SON BROUGHT HOME A BLONDE-HAIRED BOY!?

YES, I'M SURE THAT'S MY GRANDSON.
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? YOU DIDN'T EVEN TAKE YOUR PILLS!
WERE YOU TRYING TO KILL YOURSELF!?

I DON'T CARE TO LIVE FOR A LONG TIME.
JAMES DEAN AND MARILYN MONROE...
JIM MORRISON, MARC BOLAN...
THEY ALL DIED WHILE THEY WERE YOUNG AND COOL.
I'D RATHER DIE YOUNG WHILE FANS WOULD STILL MOURN ME!
smack
slap

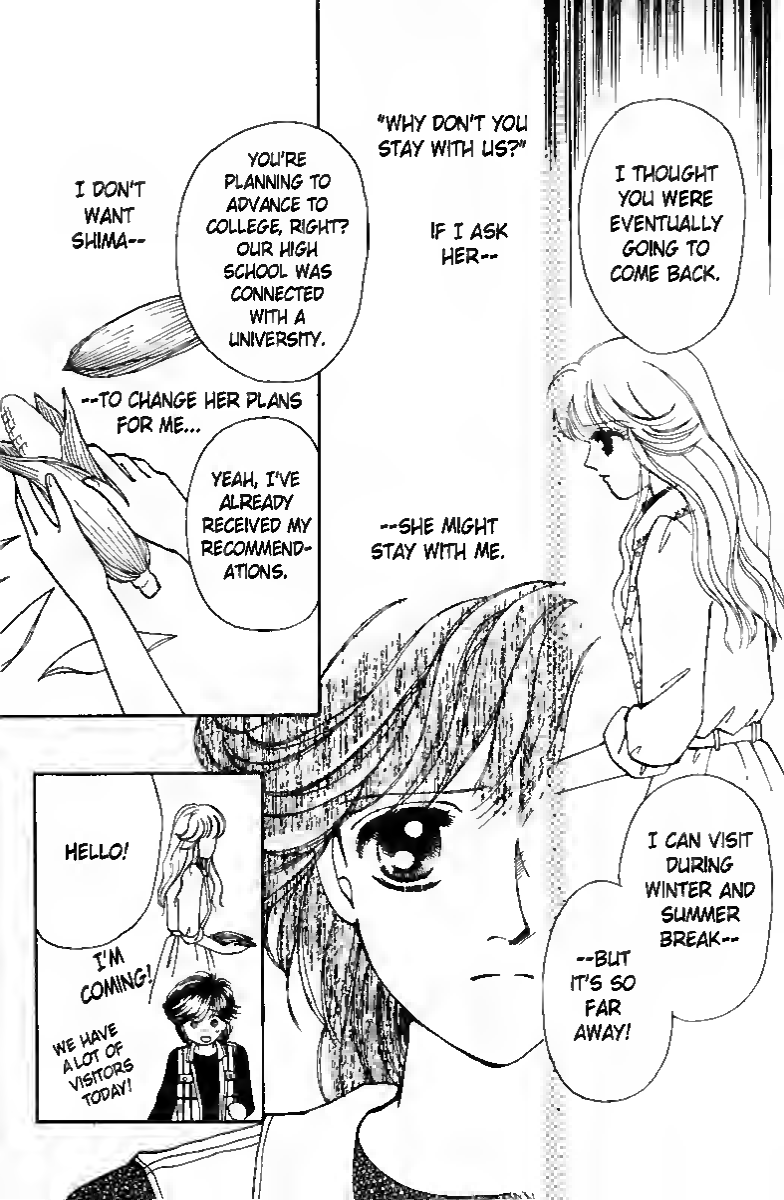
FROM BOTH SIDES!
OUCH!
I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
I MISSED MY CHANCE!
PLEASE, DON'T DO THIS AGAIN.

I--
--DIDN'T KNOW THAT I WAS SO SICK.
RYOU, IF I STAY HERE FOR A WHILE--
--I'D JUST COLLAPSE AGAIN.
EVEN IF I WENT BACK--
--WILL I GET BETTER?

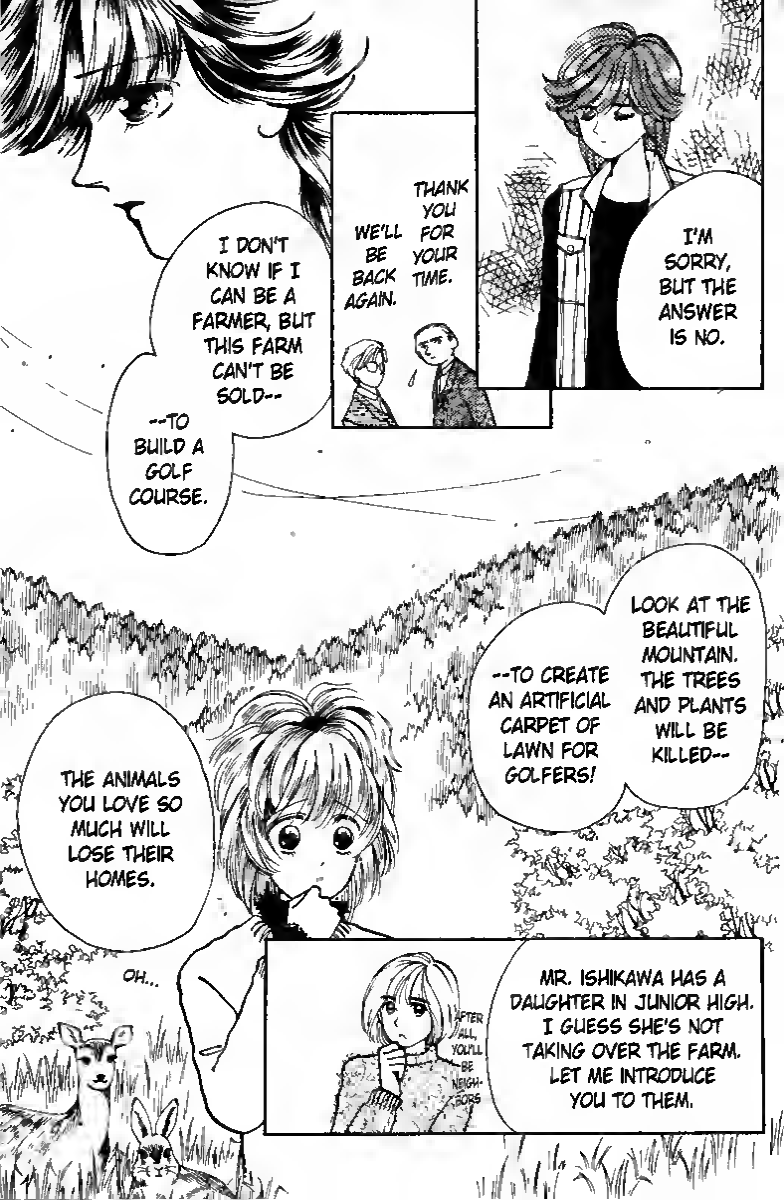
THANK YOU!
THIS IS THE GUEST ROOM.
YEAH, YOU'LL GET BETTER.
I WANT TO SLEEP IN THE SAME ROOM WITH SHIMA!
ZENTA!
I WAS JOKING. BESIDES, I'M YOUNGER...
LOOK AT MY INNOCENT EYES!
YOU DATED SOMEONE 3 YEARS OLDER THAN SHIMA!
smother
もがが...
GOOD NIGHT. I'M SORRY ZEN CAUSED PROBLEMS TONIGHT!
GOOD NIGHT!

JUST KNOWING THAT--
HELLO!
IT'S COLD UP HERE!
--MAKES MY DAY!
WHEN I WAKE UP--
--SHIMA WILL BE HERE.
THIS IS THE LAST OF THE CORN HARVEST. THEY WERE PICKED THIS MORNING.
CAPTAIN OOMI, THE RUSSIAN SOLDIER!
GOOD MORNING! HOW IS THE "GHOST" FEELING?

YOU PLAN ON STAYING HERE, THEN?
THANK YOU. I HOPE WE'LL GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.
I'LL STEAM THE CORN!
WE DO THESE SURVIVAL GAMES IN THE FOREST SEVERAL TIMES A MONTH. WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?
DO YOU GO FISHING?
SURE, I'D LOVE TO!
I'M SORRY, SHIMA. YOU'RE MY GUEST.
I'LL DO THAT
Ya!
Ya!

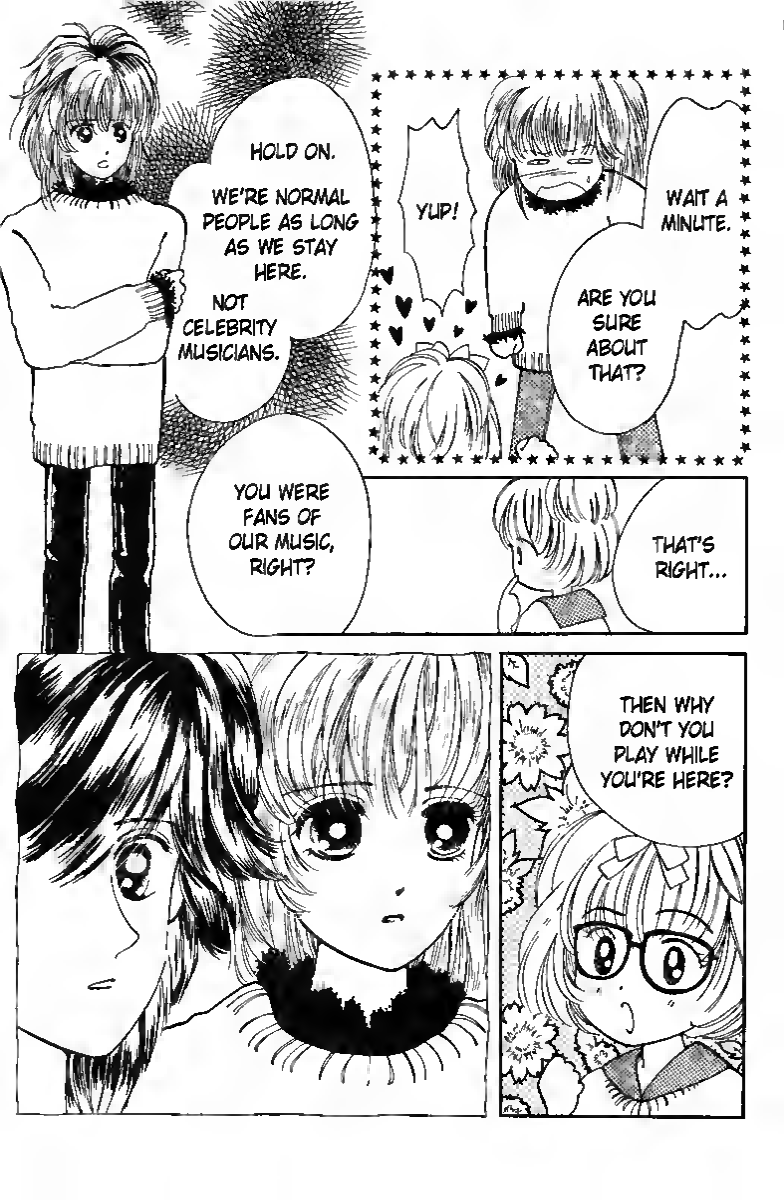

I THOUGHT YOU WERE EVENTUALLY GOING TO COME BACK.
"WHY DON'T YOU STAY WITH US?"
IF I ASK HER--
--SHE MIGHT STAY WITH ME.
I DON'T WANT SHIMA--
YOU'RE PLANNING TO ADVANCE TO COLLEGE, RIGHT? OUR HIGH SCHOOL WAS CONNECTED WITH A UNIVERSITY.
--TO CHANGE HER PLANS FOR ME...
YEAH, I'VE ALREADY RECEIVED MY RECOMMEND-ATIONS.
I CAN VISIT DURING WINTER AND SUMMER BREAK--
--BUT IT'S SO FAR AWAY!
HELLO!
I'M COMING!
WE HAVE A LOT OF VISITORS TODAY!

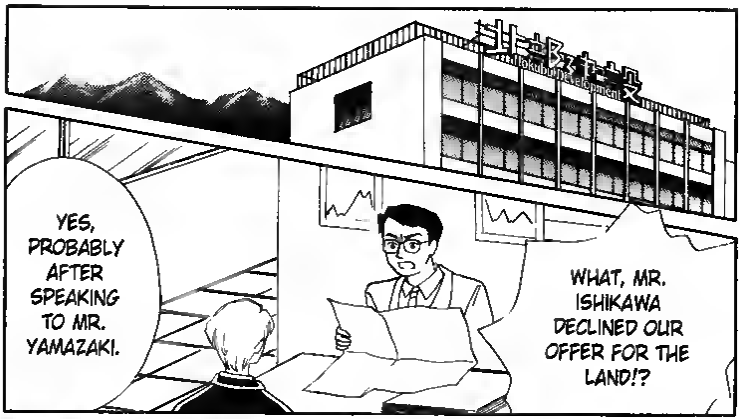
I'VE COME TO GET A POSITIVE ANSWER.
THIS IS REGARDING THE GOLF COURSE AND HE WORKS FOR THE DEVELOPER.
HELLO. WE'RE HERE FROM THE CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT.
IS YOUR GRAND-FATHER HOME?
HE'S WORKING IN THE FIELDS. CAN I HELP YOU?
ABOUT TURNING THIS FARM INTO A GOLF COURSE?
I'M PLANNING TO TAKE AFTER THE FARM, SO THE ANSWER IS NO.
RYOU, WE'LL BE HERE FOR A BIT LONGER, BUT...
YOUR NEIGHBOR, MR. ISHIKAWA, HAS AGREED TO SELL HIS LAND.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT.

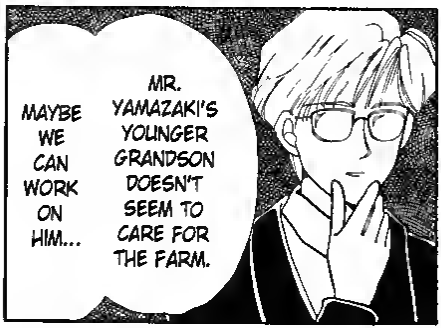

I'M SORRY, BUT THE ANSWER IS NO.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.
WE'LL BE BACK AGAIN.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN BE A FARMER, BUT THIS FARM CAN'T BE SOLD--
--TO BUILD A GOLF COURSE.
LOOK AT THE BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN. THE TREES AND PLANTS WILL BE KILLED--
--TO CREATE AN ARTIFICIAL CARPET OF LAWN FOR GOLFERS!
THE ANIMALS YOU LOVE SO MUCH WILL LOSE THEIR HOMES.
OH..
MR. ISHIKAWA HAS A DAUGHTER IN JUNIOR HIGH. I GUESS SHE'S NOT TAKING OVER THE FARM. LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO THEM.
AFTER ALL, YOU'LL BE NEIGHBORS

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
SO, YOU'RE MR. YAMAZAKI'S GRANDSONS!
WE HAVE A DAUGHTER, BUT SHE'S NOT PLANNING TO TAKE OVER THE FARM.
TOK
TOK
NOT THAT STORY AGAIN!
SHHH, TATSUMI!
I'M LEAVING THIS TOWN AS SOON AS I FINISH HIGH SCHOOL!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WHY ARE YOU HERE?
OH MY GOD! IT'S ZEN!
I'VE EVEN COPIED ZEN'S HAIR-STYLE!
I'VE BEEN A HUGE FAN FOREVER!
CAN I SHAKE YOUR HAND?
?
AND RYOU!
WHAT? YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE WITH YOUR GRAND-FATHER?
THEN I'LL TAKE OVER THE FARM TOO!


HOLD ON.
WE'RE NORMAL PEOPLE AS LONG AS WE STAY HERE.
NOT CELEBRITY MUSICIANS.
YUP!
WAIT A MINUTE.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
YOU WERE FANS OF OUR MUSIC, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT...
THEN WHY DON'T YOU PLAY WHILE YOU'RE HERE?


WHAT, MR. ISHIKAWA DECLINED OUR OFFER FOR THE LAND!?
YES, PROBABLY AFTER SPEAKING TO MR. YAMAZAKI.


MR. YAMAZAKI'S YOUNGER GRANDSON DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE FOR THE FARM.
MAYBE WE CAN WORK ON HIM...

IF THEY BOTH REFUSE THE OFFER--
--THE LAND FOR THE GOLF COURSE WILL BE REDUCED BY 1/3.

IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL HERE.
I'D LOVE TO STAY!

SHIMA, I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING!
YOUR EYES ARE BRIGHTER THAN DIAMONDS.
I'M HERE WAITING FOR YOU, BABY!
la
COME OUT, YOU OCOJO!
la la la
la la la
WHAT A WEIRD SONG!
オコジョ OCOJO
オコジョ OCOJO

THEY'RE OCOJO.
WHAT ARE THEY?
ANY BEARS?
I DON'T THINK SO! I HOPE...
THEY GATHER WHEN I SING.
RABBITS, TOO.
THAT'S WONDER-FUL!
HUH?
YOU AND RYOU HAVE TO PROTECT THE ANIMALS HERE.

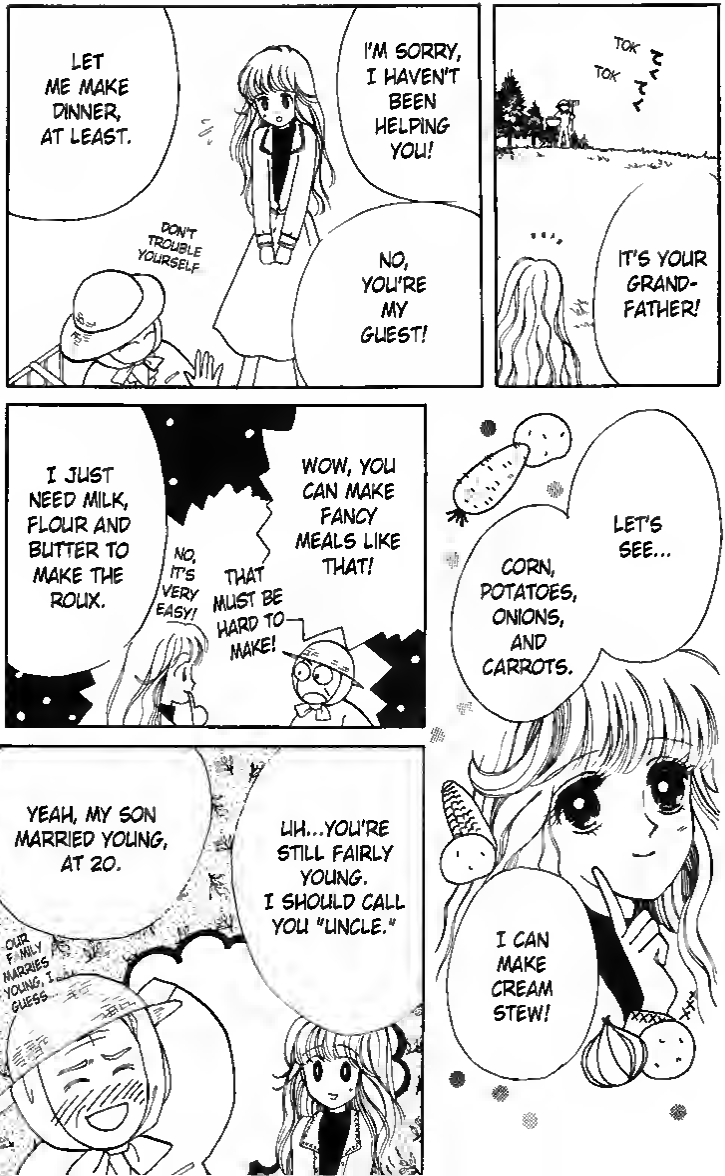
YEAH,
YOU'RE RIGHT.
--I COULD HELP YOU GUYS.
I WISH--

IT'S TIME FOR MY PILLS NOW.
RYOU, SHIMA'S WAITING FOR YOU TO--
--ASK HER TO STAY.
MAYBE NOT NOW--
--BUT IN THE FUTURE...
THE OCOJO ARE FOLLOWING HIM. THEY MUST LIKE HIM.
THIS MIGHT BE THE RIGHT PLACE FOR ZEN.
TOK TOK TOK

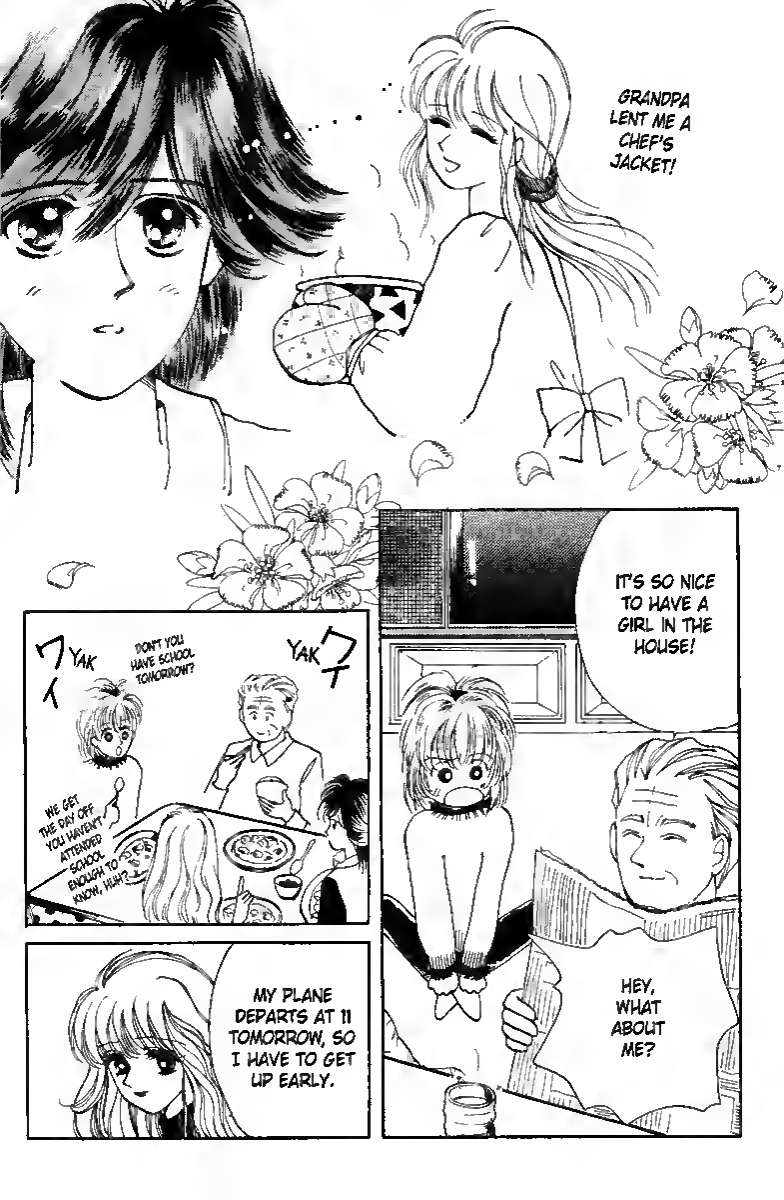
IT DEPENDS ON THE SPECIES--
--BUT I HEAR THAT ANIMALS THAT HAVEN'T BEEN HARMED BY PEOPLE AREN'T AFRAID OF US.
ISN'T IT STRANGE? IT'S SO QUIET HERE--
--AND I CAN'T EVEN HEAR ANY CARS--
Zzz
THIS MUST BE A SAFE PLACE FOR THEM.

THAT'S BECAUSE--
--THE PLACE IS ALIVE WITH WILDLIFE. ANIMALS ARE HIDING EVERYWHERE.
--BUT I'M NOT LONELY.
BUT THE REAL REASON--

--IS BECAUSE WE'RE TOGETHER.


LET ME MAKE DINNER, AT LEAST.
I'M SORRY, I HAVEN'T BEEN HELPING YOU!
DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF
NO, YOU'RE MY GUEST!
TOK TOK
IT'S YOUR GRAND-FATHER!
I JUST NEED MILK, FLOUR AND BUTTER TO MAKE THE ROUX.
WOW, YOU CAN MAKE FANCY MEALS LIKE THAT!
NO, IT'S VERY EASY!
THAT MUST BE HARD TO MAKE!
LET'S SEE...
CORN, POTATOES, ONIONS, AND CARROTS.
I CAN MAKE CREAM STEW!
YEAH, MY SON MARRIED YOUNG, AT 20.
UH...YOU'RE STILL FAIRLY YOUNG. I SHOULD CALL YOU "UNCLE."
OUR FAMILY MARRIES YOUNG, I GUESS.

SHUT UP, GRANDPA!
わはは
Hee Hee
MAYBE THAT TREND WILL CONTINUE, AT THIS RATE!


GRANDPA LENT ME A CHEF'S JACKET!
IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE A GIRL IN THE HOUSE!
HEY, WHAT ABOUT ME?
YAK
YAK
DON'T YOU HAVE SCHOOL TOMORROW?
WE GET THE DAY OFF YOU HAVEN'T ATTENDED SCHOOL ENOUGH TO KNOW, HUH?
MY PLANE DEPARTS AT 11 TOMORROW, SO I HAVE TO GET UP EARLY.

NO, I'M GOING TO STAY HERE.
I'LL BECOME STRONG, LIKE THE TERMINATOR!
YOU WON'T RUN AWAY AGAIN?
I'LL GO WITH YOU!
THEN I'LL WORK OUT AND BECOME SARAH CONNOR!
YOU WERE BORN TO LOOK AFTER SICK PEOPLE LIKE US, RYOU.
WHAT?
Airport

東京行 51便
11:00
JAVA
DID YOU TELL HER, RYOU?
SIGH. YOU HAVEN'T YET!
THANKS FOR COMING!
IT WAS GREAT SEEING YOU AGAIN. I'LL BE BACK DURING WINTER BREAK.
FLIGHT 51 TO TOKYO IS NOW BOARDING.
PLEASE PROCEED TO THE GATE NOW.

JANA 東京 51便 11:00
JANA 札幌 63便 11:30
GATES
BYE BYE!
SHIMA, EVEN AFTER WINTER BREAK...
--WILL YOU--
AFTER HIGH SCHOOL! NO, AFTER YOU GRADUATE COLLEGE--

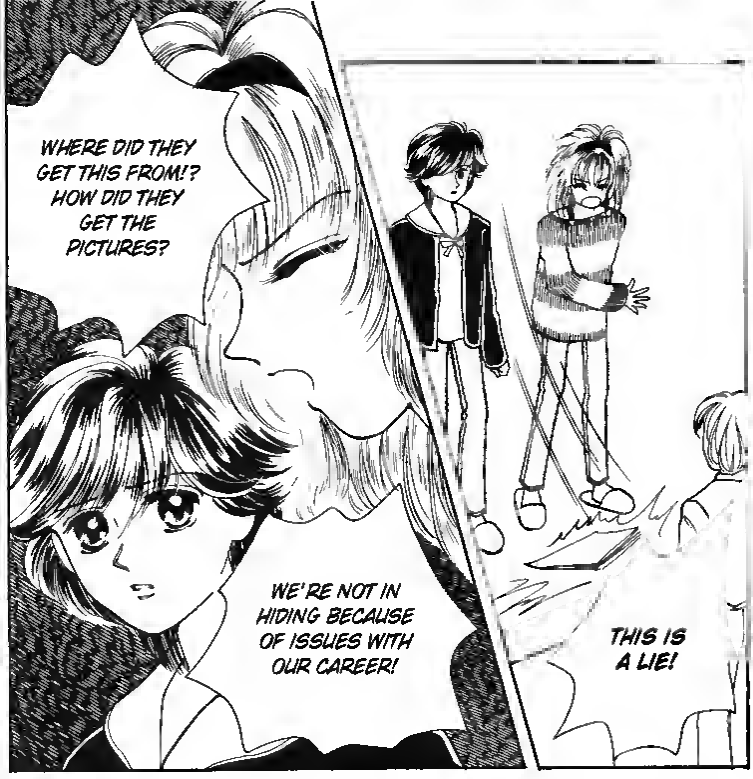
--COME BACK HERE AND STAY WITH ME?

YES!

Click
SNAP
Pose for the camera
CAN WE TAKE PICTURES WITH YOU GUYS?
I BROUGHT MY FRIENDS.
WOW! IT REALLY IS ZEN AND RYOU!
PLEASE!
HUMPH!
giggle giggle
Click
WHAT? WE'RE BOTH MUDDY RIGHT NOW.
DON'T SHOW ANYBODY IF I LOOK WEIRD IN THE PHOTOS, OKAY?
THANKS SO MUCH, GUYS!
LA
LA
LA

Broken Dreams of Stardom!
POPULAR BACKUP MUSICIANS FOR RIKA FUMIZUKI, RYOUTA AND ZENTA HAVE RETIRED AFTER A BLOWOUT WITH THEIR MANAGEMENT COMPANY!
WITH SHATTERED DREAMS, THEY HEAD BACK TO THE COUNTRYSIDE..
Weekly Photo SCANDAL
RYOUTA, ZENTA, HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?
WHERE DID THIS COME FROM!?

LOOKS LIKE...


WHERE DID THEY GET THIS FROM!? HOW DID THEY GET THE PICTURES?
WE'RE NOT IN HIDING BECAUSE OF ISSUES WITH OUR CAREER!
THIS IS A LIE!

BONUS 4. IF I WAS OLDER BACK THEN, I WOULD HAVE BOUGHT THE FARM, AND IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN TURNED INTO A GOLF COURSE. THAT WAS TRAGIC. I WANTED TO AT LEAST GIVE MY STORY A HAPPY ENDING. MY FAMILY FARM WAS FULL OF WILD ANIMALS LIKE FOXES, SQUIRRELS, RABBITS, AND OCCASIONALLY A DEER (CITY FOLKS ARE REALLY SHOCKED WHEN I TALK ABOUT THIS)! ZENTA IS NAMED AFTER MY FRIEND'S YOUNGER BROTHER. I LOVE THAT NAME! (BY THE WAY, TO SHINICHI AND HIS BROTHER. PLEASE READ "MISS ME.") RYOUTA WAS THE NAME OF MY FRIEND'S TEDDY BEAR. I THOUGHT ZENTA AND RYOUTA SOUNDED GOOD TOGETHER, SO I USED IT! I MODELED ZENTA AFTER A CERTAIN MUSICIAN, BUT ZENTA ENDED UP LOOKING TOO CHILDISH, SO I WON'T TELL YOU WHO IT IS. MAYBE SOME OF YOU CAN GUESS. I HOPE HE'S STILL WORKING ON HIS MUSIC SINCE THE BAND SPLIT UP.

THAT GIRL TOOK THESE PHOTOS.
WAAAAHHH!
わぁーっ
I'M SO SORRY!
I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE GOING TO BE USED LIKE THIS!

HOW DID THEY GET THEM?
A MAN APPROACHED ME AFTER I SAID GOODBYE TO YOU GUYS.
YOUR GLASSES!
YOU MUST BE MR. ISHIKAWA'S DAUGHTER.
YOU WERE JUST TAKING PHOTOS WITH ZEN AND RYOU, RIGHT?
Squeak
MY DAUGHTER IS A HUGE FAN, TOO.
CAN I GET A COPY FOR HER?
OH, SURE!
HE CAME BY WHEN I GOT MY PICTURES BACK.

BONUS 5.

♡ RECENTLY, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HANG OUT WITH ROCKER GUYS AND GALS. (I HAVE NOT SEEN A LIVE METAL SHOW IN AGES ..) WE WERE LAUGHING BECAUSE THE CONVERSATION TURNED INTO HOW "A METAL BAND SHOULD LOOK UNHEALTHY AND BE SKINNY." IT'S FUNNY, BECAUSE FOREIGN METAL BANDS TEND TO BE VERY SOLID AND HEALTHY (LAUGH).

(NOTE: METAL MUSICIANS IN JAPAN ARE USUALLY PALE, SKINNY FRAIL LOOKING GUYS. KIND OF LIKE THE GOTH MUSICIANS HERE IN THE STATES.)

A DEVIL'S HALO IS A TERM COINED BY MY PRETTY HAIR-STYLIST. IT'S THE OPPOSITE OF AN ANGEL'S HALO. I THOUGHT IT WAS A GREAT DESCRIPTION, SO I USED IT IN THIS PROJECT. I PERSONALLY LIKE THE DEVIL'S HALO! (LAUGH)

♡ THE NAMES FOR THE CHARACTERS IN "THE MAGIC OF LOVE" WERE NAMED AFTER MY FAVORITE MUSICIANS (I CHANGED THE KANJI). FOR EXAMPLE, I NAMED YUME'S NAME AFTER YUME SUZUKI. SHIMA OBATA FROM "LOVE AND PEACE IN A CORNFIELD," KAZU TERANISHI FROM "THE MAGIC OF LOVE." THESE NAMES ARE FROM "SKANCHI." (LAUGH) I HOPE THEY'RE NOT MAD.

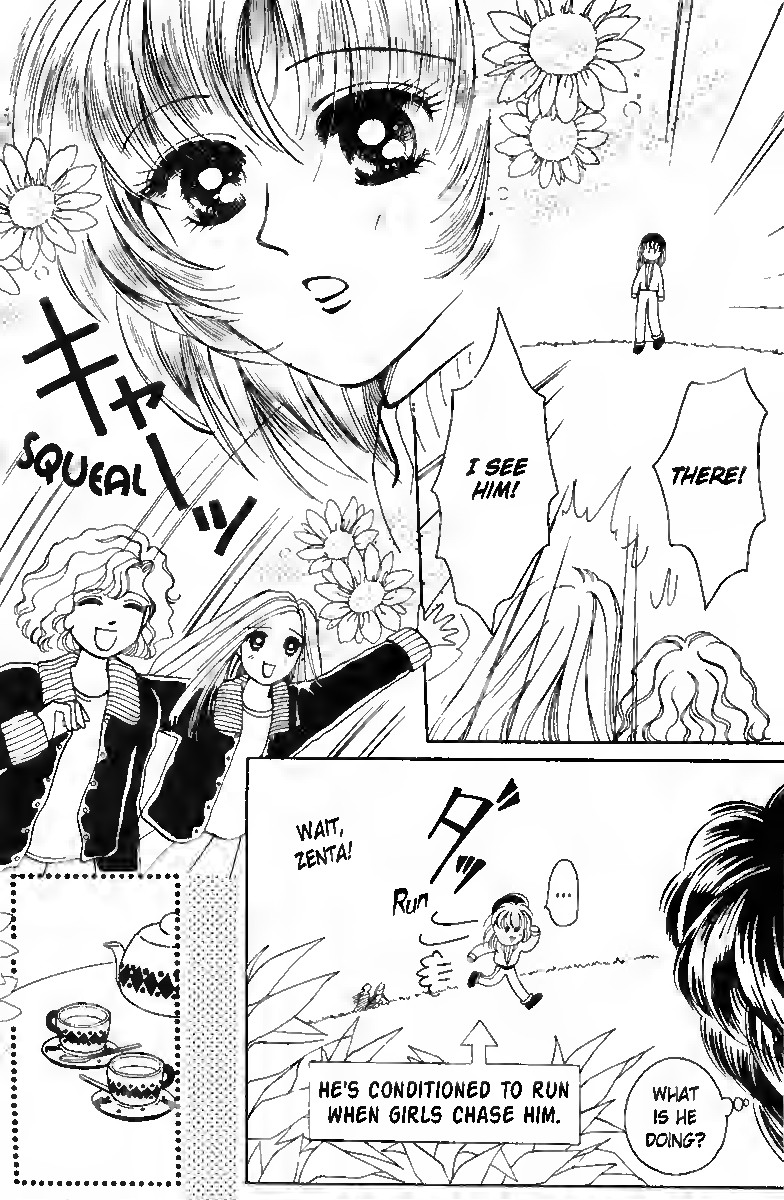
WHO WOULD DO THIS? THE LIES IN THE ARTICLE...I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT THIS WOULD MAKE A LOT OF MONEY.
I THOUGHT HE WAS A FRIEND OF MY FATHER.
HE CAME BY WHEN DAD WASN'T HOME, SO I DON'T KNOW THE MAN'S NAME.
I CAN'T TAKE THIS GARBAGE!
I'M GOING TO GET BACK ON STAGE AND SHOW THEM NOW!
SEE, YOU'RE TALKING LIKE THAT AGAIN.
COME ON!

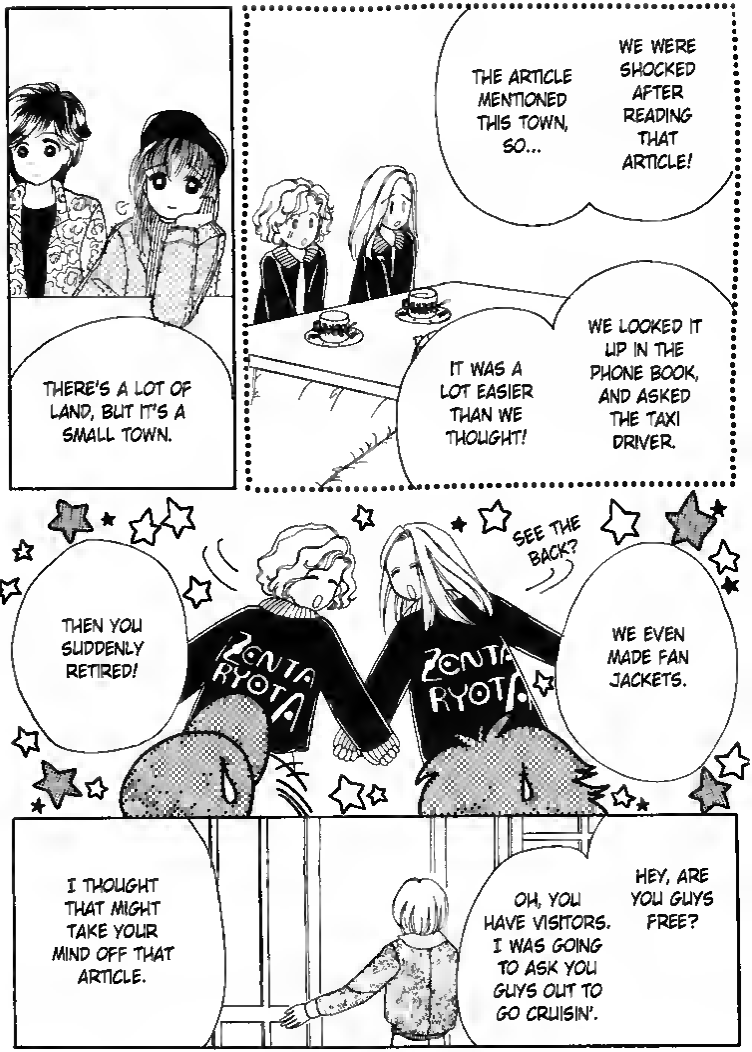
WAIT--
--I SEE A MOTIVE.
THERE ARE PEOPLE THAT WANT YOU TO GET PISSED OFF AND LEAVE, RIGHT?
RRRRING...
IT'S SHIMA. RYOU?
HELLO.

SHIMA!
YOU SOUND UPSET.
SHIMA CALLED--
--AT THE PERFECT TIME...
YEAH, I'M ANGRY ABOUT THE ARTICLE.
DID YOU READ IT?
WHAT IS THIS!?
SO I WAS RIGHT.
EVERYONE'S UPSET OVER HERE, TOO.

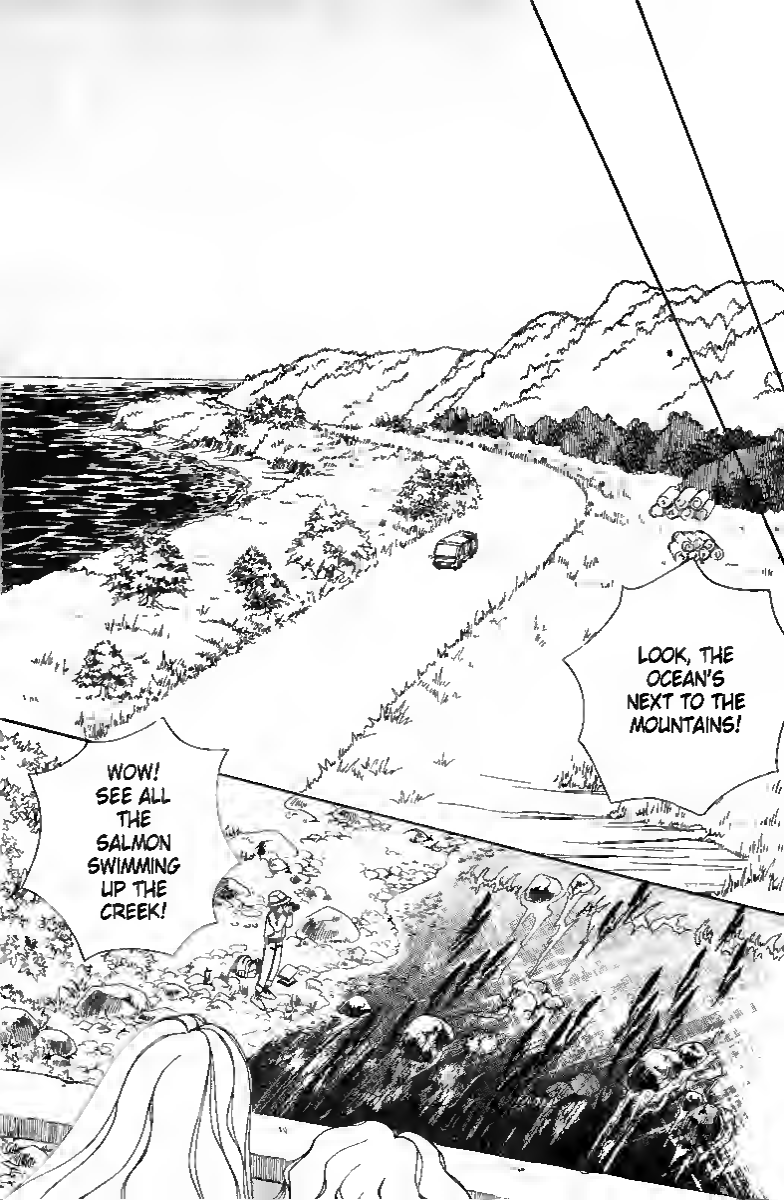
SHIMA'S ALWAYS THERE FOR ME--
--WHEN I NEED THE MOST SUPPORT.
THAT'S WHY I CAN SUPPORT ZEN.
I WAS SHOCKED, TOO--
--BUT I NEED TO MAKE SURE ZEN CALMS DOWN FIRST.
I COULD CRY RIGHT NOW!
WHY DON'T YOU?

ONE WEEK LATER...
THIS IS IT!
ZENTA MUST BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE!
ZENTA!
WHAT?
I HEARD A GIRL CALLING MY NAME.
YOU'RE HEARING THINGS NOW? COME ON...
NO, I HEARD A GIRL CALLING MY NAME!


キャー
SQUEAL
I SEE HIM!
THERE!
WAIT, ZENTA!
ダッ
RUN
...
HE'S CONDITIONED TO RUN WHEN GIRLS CHASE HIM.
WHAT IS HE DOING?

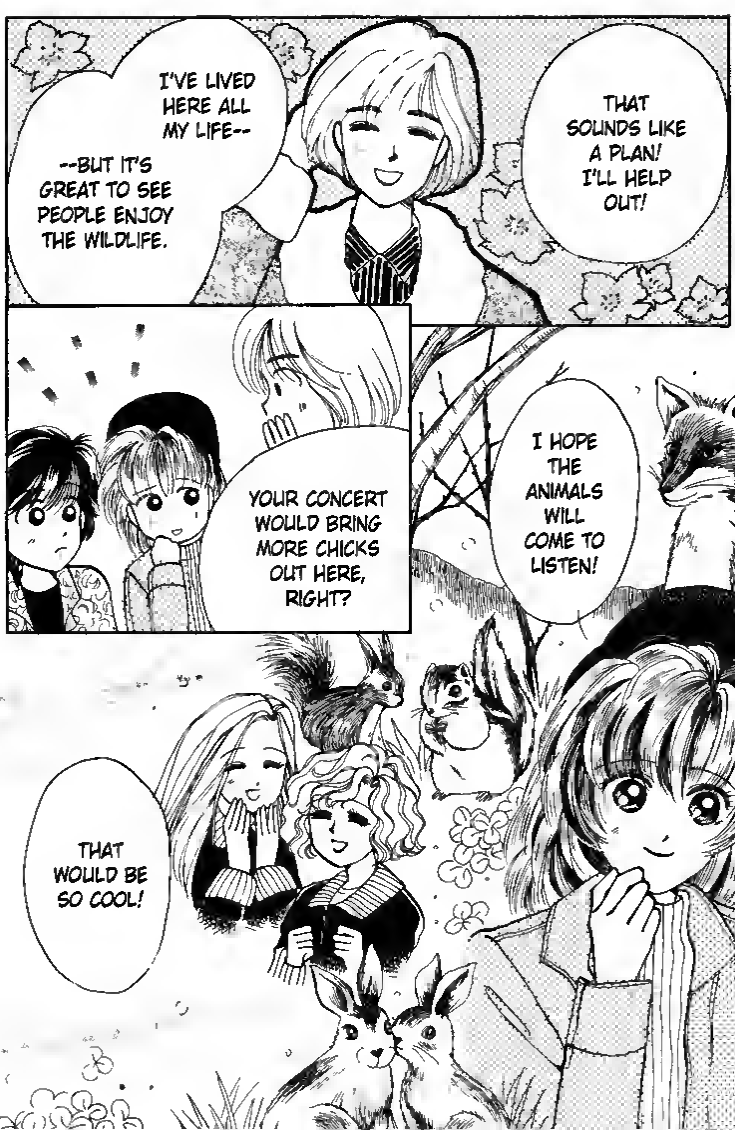

THERE'S A LOT OF LAND, BUT IT'S A SMALL TOWN.
THE ARTICLE MENTIONED THIS TOWN, SO...
WE WERE SHOCKED AFTER READING THAT ARTICLE!
IT WAS A LOT EASIER THAN WE THOUGHT!
WE LOOKED IT UP IN THE PHONE BOOK, AND ASKED THE TAXI DRIVER.
THEN YOU SUDDENLY RETIRED!
SEE THE BACK?
ZENTA RYOTA
ZENTA RYOTA
WE EVEN MADE FAN JACKETS.
I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT TAKE YOUR MIND OFF THAT ARTICLE.
OH, YOU HAVE VISITORS. I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU GUYS OUT TO GO CRUISIN'.
HEY, ARE YOU GUYS FREE?

HURRY, BEFORE GRANDPA CATCHES US!
RUSH
RUSH
SOUNDS GOOD, CAPTAIN.
THEY'RE HERE TO VISIT US, SO CAN THEY COME ALONG?
WOW!
THANKS, OOMI.
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING!
THERE'S A LOT TO FINISH BEFORE WINTER!
SORRY GRANDPA! I'LL HELP OUT TOMORROW!

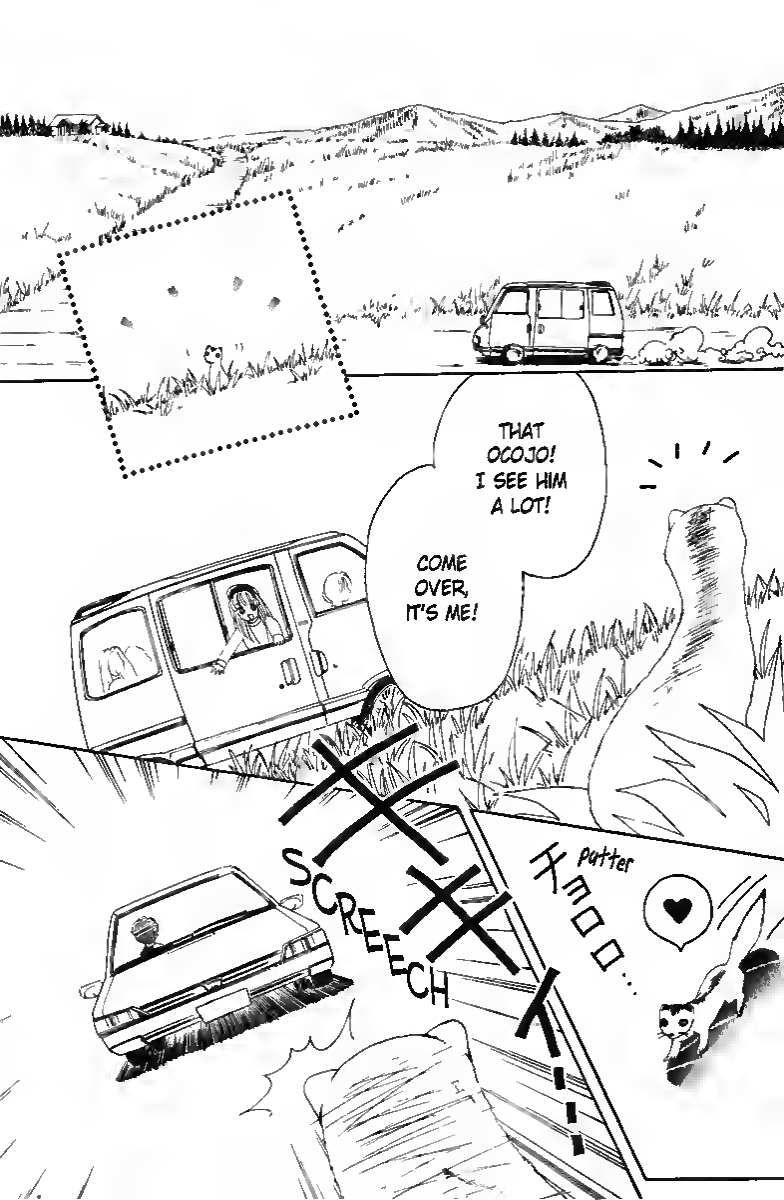

LOOK, THE OCEAN'S NEXT TO THE MOUNTAINS!
WOW! SEE ALL THE SALMON SWIMMING UP THE CREEK!

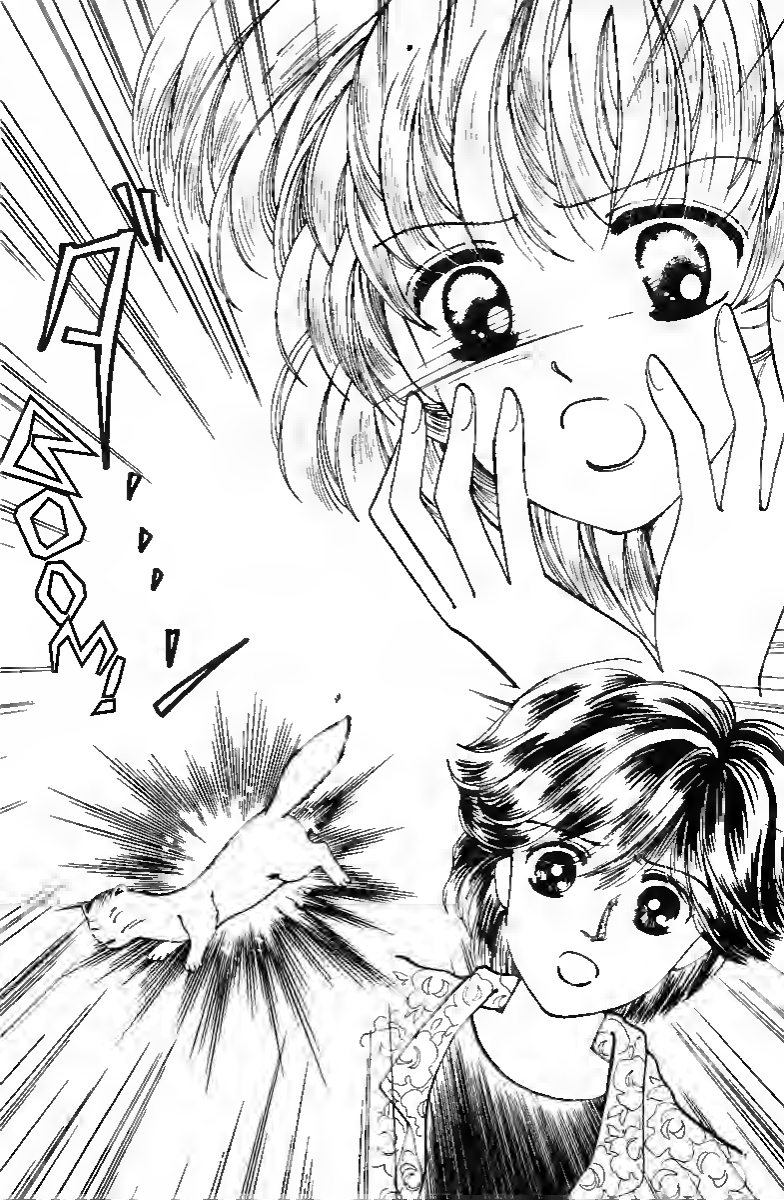
LET ME GUESS WHAT YOU'RE THINKING!
ARE YOU LONELY?
YOU WANT TO SHOW SHIMA THIS SCENERY, RIGHT?
HOW PRETTY!
I'LL HAVE PLENTY OF OPPOR-TUNITIES LATER.
WE'LL LIVE TOGETHER UP HERE, ONE DAY.
I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE OPENED MY MOUTH!
OH, I SEE!

I'M GLAD WE CAME OUT TO LOOK FOR YOU GUYS!
THIS IS SO COOL! I'VE NEVER SEEN NATURE LIKE THIS BEFORE!
WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO HEAR THEM PERFORM OUT HERE--
--SURROUNDED BY WILDLIFE?
THAT'S RIGHT! IN THE MIDDLE OF A LARGE FIELD...


I'VE LIVED HERE ALL MY LIFE--
--BUT IT'S GREAT TO SEE PEOPLE ENJOY THE WILDLIFE.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN! I'LL HELP OUT!
YOUR CONCERT WOULD BRING MORE CHICKS OUT HERE, RIGHT?
I HOPE THE ANIMALS WILL COME TO LISTEN!
THAT WOULD BE SO COOL!

HERE--
--SURROUNDED BY THESE MOUNTAINS...


THAT OCOJO! I SEE HIM A LOT!
COME OVER, IT'S ME!
SCREECH
patter
Hmoo...


ダメ〜〜〜!!

I CALLED TO HIM!
Close
YOU'RE BOTH STILL HERE!
Slam!
MY OCOJO!
IT'S MY FAULT!

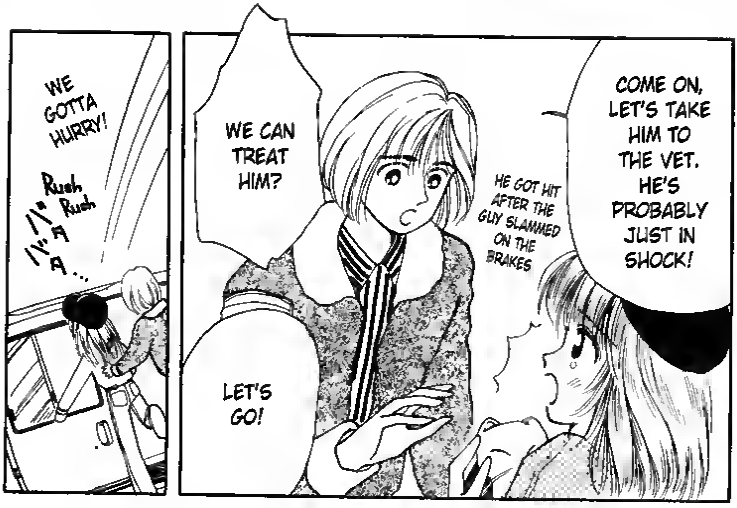
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT ARTICLE, AREN'T YOU!

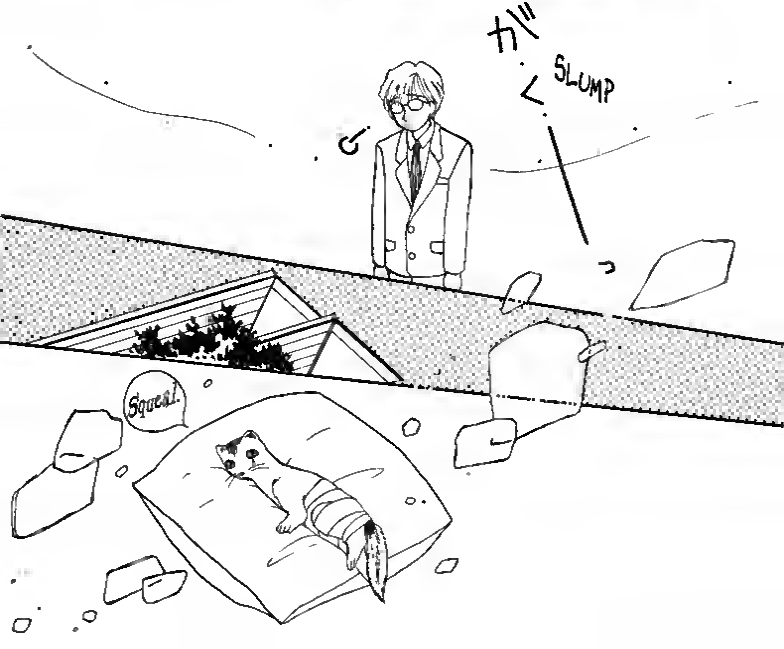
I THOUGHT YOU WENT BACK TO TOKYO.

WE'RE STAYING HERE.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED IF IT STAYED HERE.
THIS LAND IS GETTING DEVELOPED, SO THAT OCOJO SHOULD BE LEAVING ANYWAY.

I'M STAYING HERE--
--TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH THE ANIMALS--
--AND PROTECT THEM!
I'LL NEVER SELL MY MOUNTAIN TO YOU!


WE GOTTA HURRY!
Rush Rush
WE CAN TREAT HIM?
LET'S GO!
HE GOT HIT AFTER THE GUY SLAMMED ON THE BRAKES
COME ON, LET'S TAKE HIM TO THE VET. HE'S PROBABLY JUST IN SHOCK!


カリ
SLUMP
Squeal

YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW!
WHAT IS IT, GRAMPS?
grind grind
LET'S SEE IF MY SPECIAL FORMULA WORKS ON HIM!
HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
クス
smile
IT'S A MIXTURE OF HERBS.
IT ISN'T DRIED LIZARD'S TAIL OR SOMETHING FREAKY LIKE THAT?
EWWW!
WOW, GRANDPA!
YOU'LL HAVE TO TEACH ME ABOUT THAT!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE GONNA BE OK!
SURE!

GIRLS STARTED TO VISIT THE FARM.
AFTER THAT--
--FANS STARTED TO CALL THE HOUSE.
WE'LL HELP YOU!
GRANDPA WAS HAPPY, BECAUSE HE GOT A LOT OF HELP!
I CAN'T WALK!
MY HEELS KEEP SINKING INTO THE MUD!
NOO!
SINK
SINK
SOME FANS WERE JUST CLUELESS.
--TO THANK THE VISITORS FOR COMING.
ZEN SANG FOR EVERYONE--
DREAMY.
We Love Zen!
I'M TOO COOL!

SHIMA CAME BACK FOR A VISIT.

THE ANIMALS' FUR WAS TURNING WHITE.

SOON, ZENTA'S BLEACHED HAIR WAS GROWING OUT.

WINTER HAD FINALLY ARRIVED.

IT'S FREEZING UP HERE!

LOOK! CHECK OUT THE NEW ARTICLE!

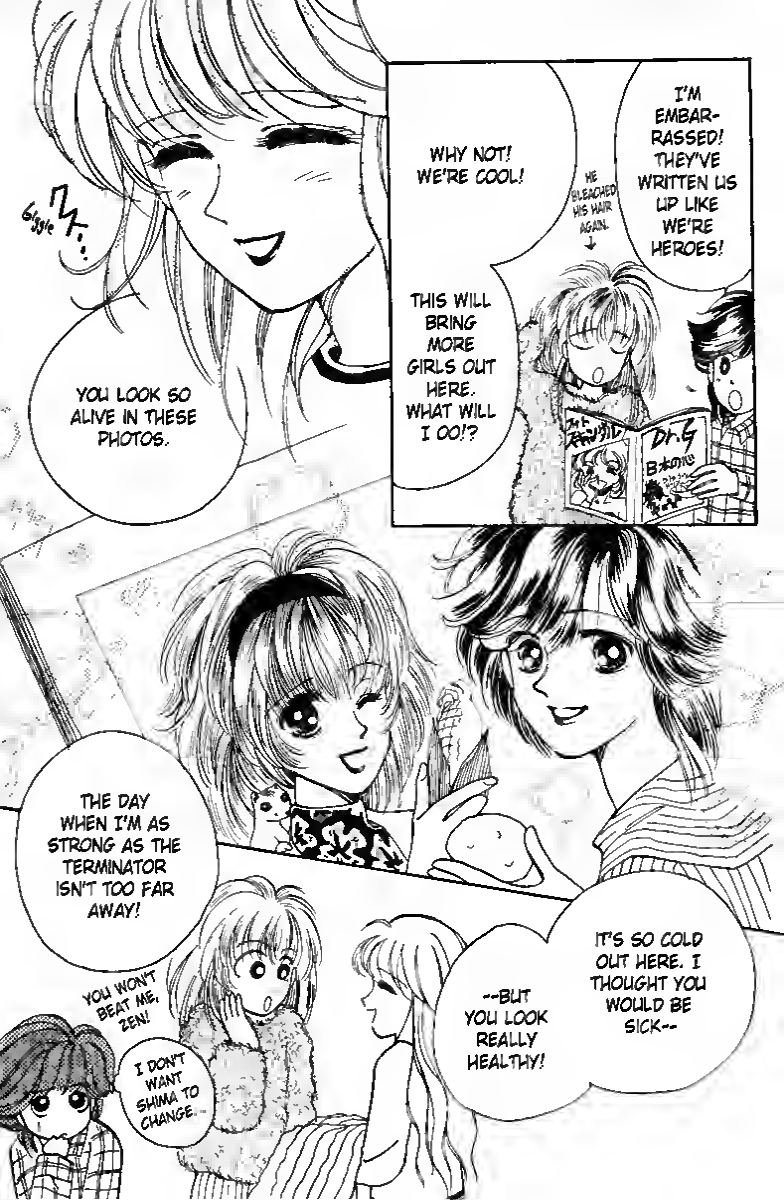
A FAN MUST HAVE SUBMITTED IT!

We're protecting wildlife!

Former musicians, Ryouta (18) and Zenta (17) are protesting their grandfather's farm from turning into another golf course. They have decided to protect the surrounding wildlife, and as a result, the neighboring farms are banding together to protest the development as well.

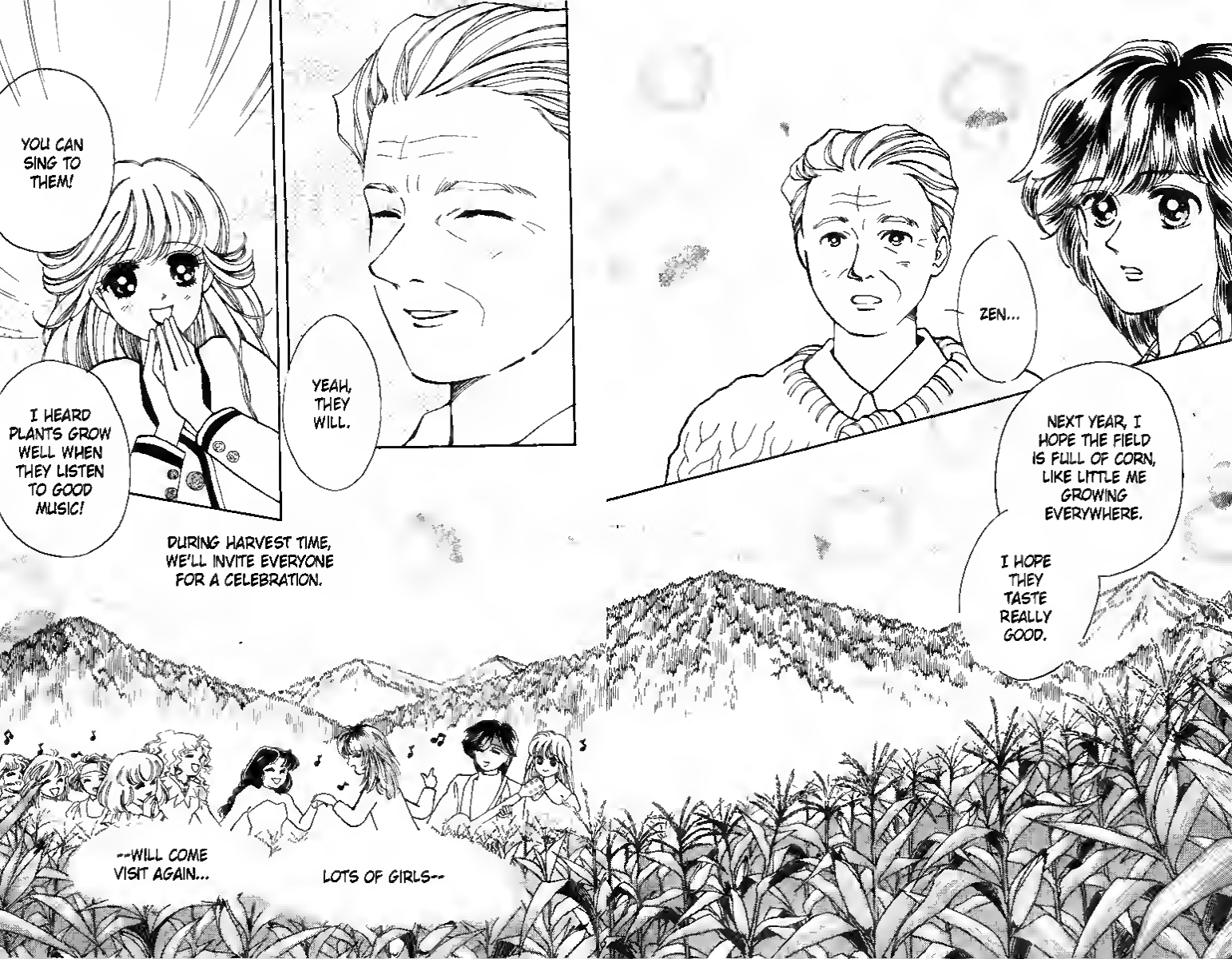
THE DEVIL'S HALO IS EXPANDING...

THE DARK ROOTS OF BLEACHED HAIR IS CALLED THE DEVIL'S HALO.


I'M EMBARRASSED! THEY'VE WRITTEN US UP LIKE WE'RE HEROES!
HE BLEACHED HIS HAIR AGAIN.
WHY NOT! WE'RE COOL!
THIS WILL BRING MORE GIRLS OUT HERE. WHAT WILL I DO!?
Dr.G
Giggle
YOU LOOK SO ALIVE IN THESE PHOTOS.
IT'S SO COLD OUT HERE. I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE SICK--
--BUT YOU LOOK REALLY HEALTHY!
THE DAY WHEN I'M AS STRONG AS THE TERMINATOR ISN'T TOO FAR AWAY!
YOU WON'T BEAT ME, ZEN!
I DON'T WANT SHIMA TO CHANGE.

RYOUTA, ZENTA...
ARE YOU BOTH REALLY PLANNING ON STAYING HERE FOR GOOD?
GRANDPA?
YOU WANT TO BE MUSICIANS, NOT FARMERS, RIGHT?
I WANT YOU BOTH TO BE HAPPY.
ZENTA LOOKS LIKE HE'S DOING BETTER. IF YOU PACE YOURSELF, MAYBE HE'LL BE OK.
I CAN STILL TAKE CARE OF THE FARM ALONE.

GRAMPS, I DON'T LIKE DIGGING POTATOES.
I'M SORRY.
I WANT TO GROW CORN, THOUGH.
ZENTA!
I LIKE THEM. THEY'RE THE COLOR OF MY HAIR!

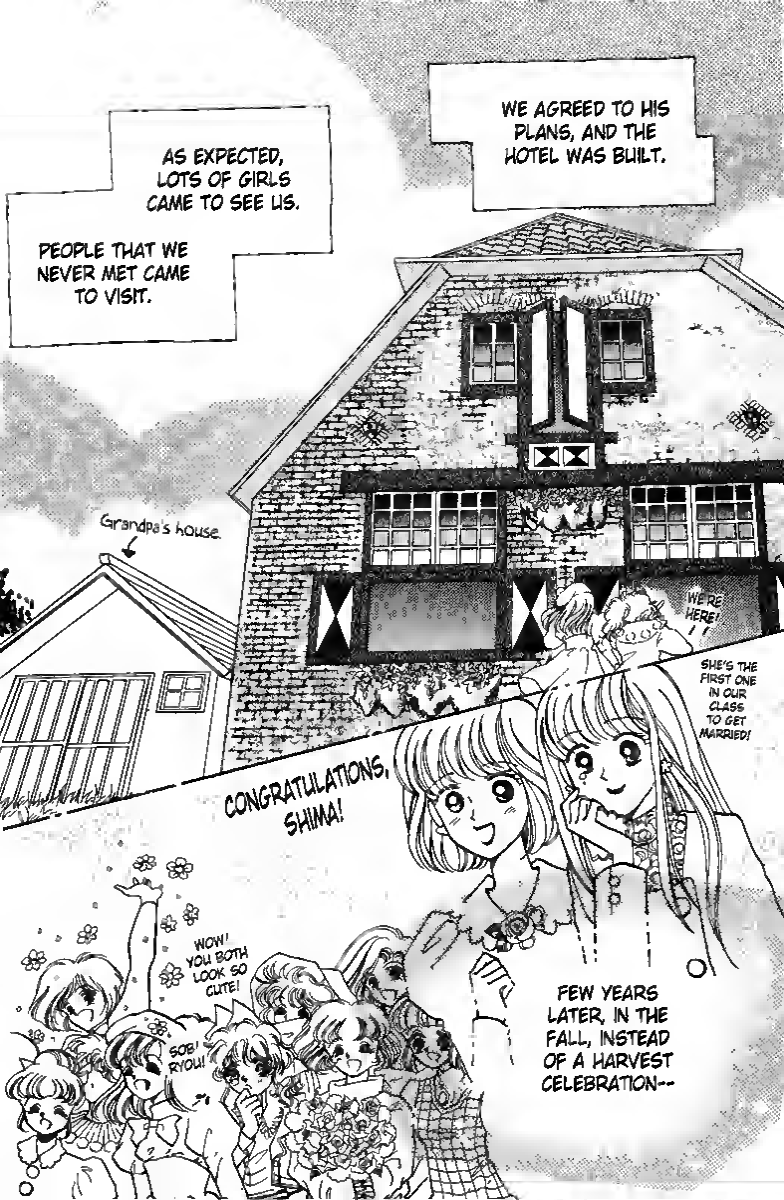

YOU CAN SING TO THEM!
I HEARD PLANTS GROW WELL WHEN THEY LISTEN TO GOOD MUSIC!
YEAH, THEY WILL.
DURING HARVEST TIME, WE'LL INVITE EVERYONE FOR A CELEBRATION.
ZEN...
NEXT YEAR, I HOPE THE FIELD IS FULL OF CORN, LIKE LITTLE ME GROWING EVERYWHERE.
I HOPE THEY TASTE REALLY GOOD.
--WILL COME VISIT AGAIN...
LOTS OF GIRLS--

IF WE ALL SING TOGETHER--
--THE MOUNTAIN WILL BE FILLED WITH SOUNDS OF JOY--
--AND LOVE...

SLIDE
EXCUSE ME...
I'M COMING!
YOU AGAIN! WHAT DO YOU WANT NOW!?
--HOW ABOUT A SMALL HOTEL ON THIS LAND?
WE GAVE UP ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GOLF COURSE. OUR SCOPE FOR DEVELOPMENT IS FOCUSING ON THE LAND FROM THE CITY, A 1/3 OF THE ORIGINAL PLAN.
IT'S AN ALTERNATIVE IDEA, BUT--

HOLD ON! WHAT'S THIS CHANGE IN ATTITUDE?
YOU WERE TRYING TO DRIVE US OUT!
I HEARD THAT A LOT OF GIRLS COME--
--TO VISIT YOU OFTEN.
AN OUTDOOR STAGE WOULD BE PERFECT. WE CAN START A TOUR PACKAGE--
--THAT COMBINES A CONCERT FEATURING YOU GUYS, ALONG WITH A RURAL FARMING AND WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE FOR THE VISITORS.
WE CAN ALSO BUILD A STUDIO AND CONCERT HALL INSIDE THE HOTEL.
BESIDES, I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY.

LEAVE IT UP TO ME. WE CAN DIVERT THE FUNDS FOR THE GOLF COURSE FROM THE CITY TO THIS PROJECT.
I GREW UP HERE, AND LEFT TO ATTEND COLLEGE IN TOKYO--
BUT I CAME BACK.
I WANTED TO USE WHAT I LEARNED TO HELP THIS TOWN.
HE WAS JUST --
--TRYING TO HELP IN HIS OWN WAY.
I CAN BE YOUR MANAGER! OF COURSE, YOU HAVE TO STAY HERE, BUT...
IF THIS BECOMES POPULAR, WE CAN RELEASE A CD.
WHAT A SALES-MAN!
LISTEN TO HIM TALK!
HE WANTED TO MAKE HIS TOWN A BETTER PLACE, JUST LIKE WE WANTED TO PROTECT THE MOUNTAIN.


AS EXPECTED, LOTS OF GIRLS CAME TO SEE US.
PEOPLE THAT WE NEVER MET CAME TO VISIT.
WE AGREED TO HIS PLANS, AND THE HOTEL WAS BUILT.
Grandpa's house
WE'RE HERE!!
SHE'S THE FIRST ONE IN OUR CLASS TO GET MARRIED!
CONGRATULATIONS, SHIMA!
WOW! YOU BOTH LOOK SO CUTE!
SOB! RYOU!
FEW YEARS LATER, IN THE FALL, INSTEAD OF A HARVEST CELEBRATION--

--SHIMA AND I CELEBRATED OUR WEDDING.
I CAUGHT THE BOUQUET!
SHIMA...
I WANT TO WEAR A DRESS LIKE THAT!
WE BOTH MADE A PROMISE TO KEEP LOVE AND PEACE FOREVER.

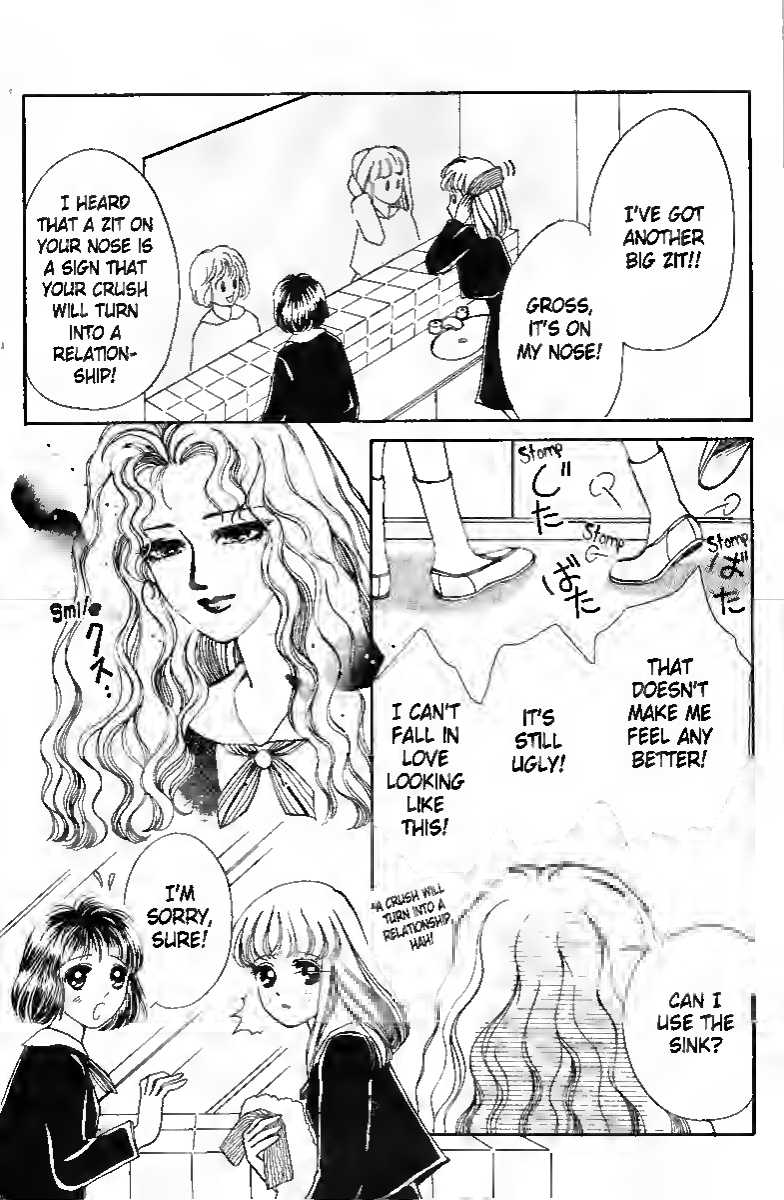
ZENTA WORKED HARD TO IMPROVE HIS HEALTH, AND BECAME VERY STRONG.
HE NO LONGER LOOKS LIKE HE HAS A CHRONIC CONDITION.
ZENTA, YOU'RE STRONG AND MANLY NOW, SO YOU WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD IN A DRESS NOW.
がっしリ
YOU'RE STILL GORGEOUS, ZEN!
100 YEARS? I'M NOT AN ELF, YOU KNOW.
I HOPE THIS MOUNTAIN WILL BE FILLED WITH ZENTA'S SONG FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS.
The End

BONUS 6.

FANS HAVE GUESSED CORRECTLY, IN SEVERAL LETTERS, THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON THAT INSPIRED YOSHIEH'S CHARACTER. SHE'S ACTUALLY BASED ON A MAN (LAUGH). I WAS THRILLED BECAUSE I THOUGHT SHE DID LOOK LIKE HIM! I TURNED YOSHIEH'S CHARACTER INTO A GIRL BECAUSE I COULDN'T FIT A LONG-HAIRED, ANDROGYNOUS, MYSTERIOUS MALE CHARACTER IN THE STORY. BY THE WAY, MY CD AS A SINGER IS OUT! IT'S HILARIOUS! I SANG THE TITLE SONG FOR "DATTE ONNANOKO NANOYO" ON THE BONUS CD FOR VOL. 2. I PREVIOUSLY SANG A DUET WITH IZUMIHIGASHI ON TWO SONGS. HOWEVER, THE STAFF CONVINCED ME INTO SINGING SOLO, SO I DID IT! ALL MY READERS THAT HAVE WRITTEN TO ME, THANK YOU FOR BEING KIND AND ENJOYING MY SONG! I REALLY APPRECIATE THE COMPLIMENTS AND SUPPORT! I'VE ALSO WRITTEN LYRICS FOR SEVERAL PROJECTS. ONE IS A CD SINGLE CALLED "ZUTTO ISHONI IYOUNE." MY FRIEND, REIKO UDO, IS THE LEAD VOCALIST. THE OTHERS ARE "ANATAMO HAPPY END" AND "ANATAMO HAPPY END 2." PLEASE LOOK FOR THEM AT YOUR LOCAL MUSIC STORE!

The Magic of Love
恋の魔法

A WOMAN BECOMES BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE'S IN LOVE--
--AS IF A MAGIC SPELL WAS CAST UPON HER.
--A CON-SOLATION TO ME.
I'VE HEARD THAT BEFORE--
ACNE LOTION
Splash
--BUT THAT SOUNDS MORE LIKE--


I HEARD THAT A ZIT ON YOUR NOSE IS A SIGN THAT YOUR CRUSH WILL TURN INTO A RELATION-SHIP!
I'VE GOT ANOTHER BIG ZIT!!
GROSS, IT'S ON MY NOSE!
Stomp
Stomp
Stomp
Sniff
I CAN'T FALL IN LOVE LOOKING LIKE THIS!
IT'S STILL UGLY!
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL ANY BETTER!
I'M SORRY, SURE!
"A CRUSH WILL TURN INTO A RELATIONSHIP" HAH!
CAN I USE THE SINK?

I-A
SHE LAUGHED AT ME.
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL. LOOK AT HER CLEAR SKIN!
SOMEONE LIKE THAT WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND MY PAIN.
I WISH I WAS BORN PRETTY, LIKE HER!
HI!
DO YOU HAVE ANY NICK-NAMES?
TELL ME!
EVERYONE CALLS ME KON-CHAN.
REALLY? CAN I CALL YOU THAT?

CALL ME YUME.
I JUST GO BY MY NAME.
SURE!
CALL ME YUME.
SMILE

BLUSH
GRIN
OH... THAT GUY.
HE'S A GUY, AND HE DOESN'T HAVE A SINGLE ZIT.
HE HAS BEAUTIFUL SKIN...
I WAS TRYING TO BE CUTE!
YOU'RE BEING FREAKY, KAZU!

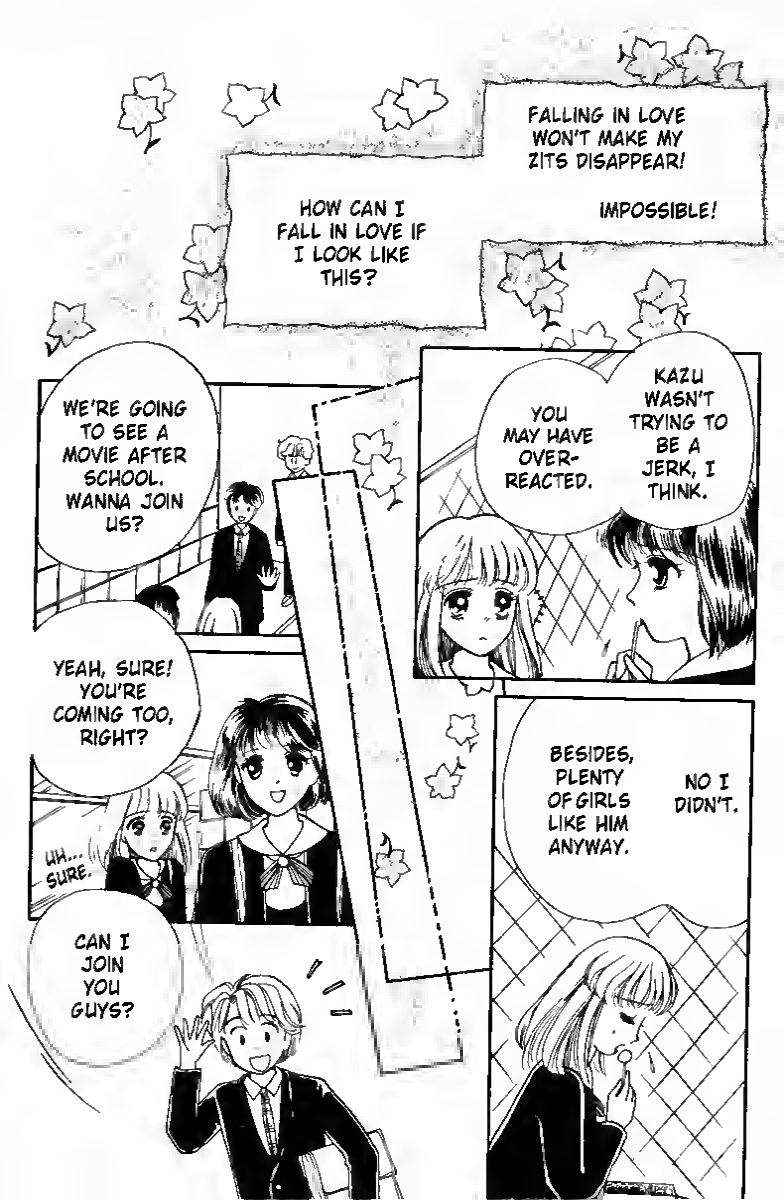
I'M TRYING THIS NEW ACNE LOTION.
YUME, LOTIONS MIGHT NOT BE YOUR BEST BET.
YAK
I BROUGHT A SANDWICH FOR LUNCH!
I WISH I HAD HIS CLEAR SKIN.
HIS MOLE IS CUTE, TOO.
HAVE YOU TRIED THIS?
MAYBE CHANGE YOUR DIET, OR...
TOK
I'M GOING TO WASH MY FACE BEFORE LUNCH.
AGAIN?
YOU JUST WASHED YOUR FACE DURING THE LAST BREAK!

YUME!
YOU WASH YOUR FACE DURING EVERY BREAK?
HOW DOES HE KNOW? DID KON-CHAN TELL HIM?
IS THAT YOUR HOBBY?

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
YOU HAVE A CLEAR COMPLEXION!
YOU COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS!!

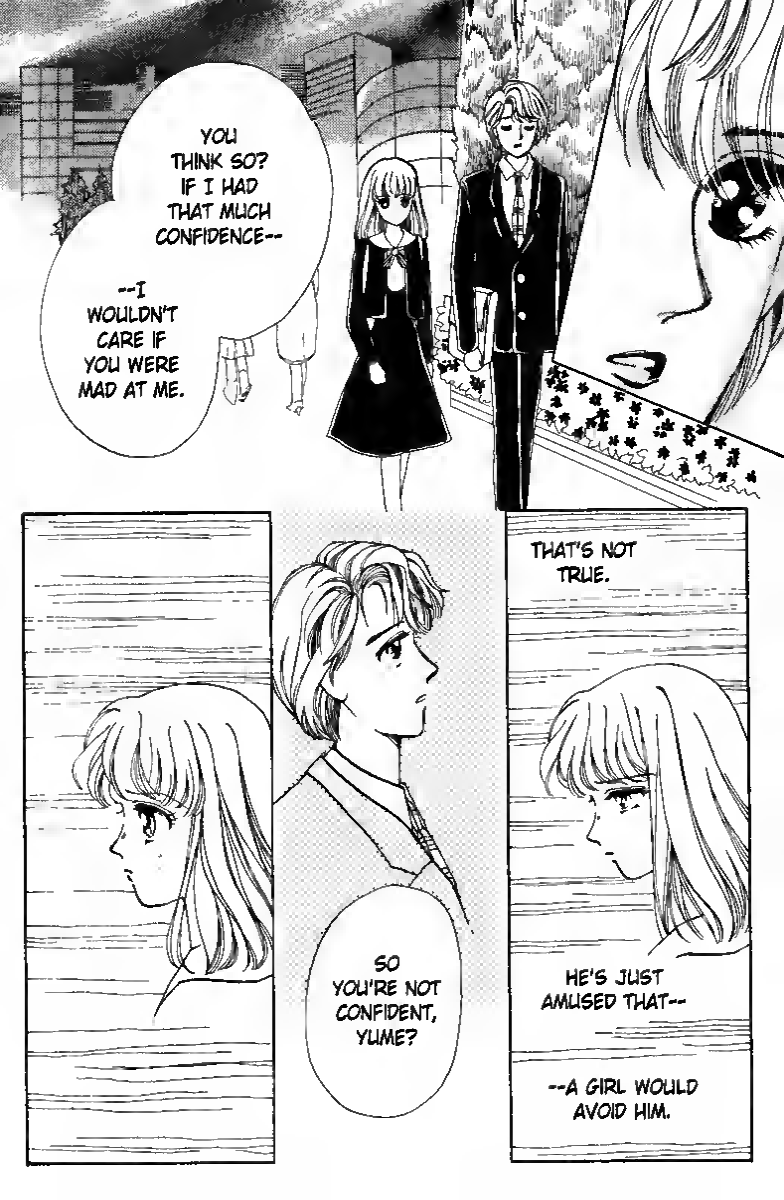
YOU SAID THINGS TO KAZU ABOUT ME, RIGHT!
KON-CHAN, HOW COULD YOU?
I BROUGHT LUNCH FOR YOU TOO!
YUME, LET'S EAT LUNCH ON THE ROOF!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!
YUME...
EXCUSE ME! WE'RE GOING UP TO THE ROOF, KON-CHAN!
SHOVE

WAIT FOR ME!
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO HER, KAZU?
THUD THUD
UH, WELL, UH....
IT'S HORRIBLE!
HAVING ALL THESE ZITS ON MY FACE!
PEOPLE LIKE KAZU MUST THINK--
--THAT I'M A MONSTER!
I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WOULD BE SO EMBARRASSED!


FALLING IN LOVE WON'T MAKE MY ZITS DISAPPEAR!
IMPOSSIBLE!
HOW CAN I FALL IN LOVE IF I LOOK LIKE THIS?
KAZU WASN'T TRYING TO BE A JERK, I THINK.
YOU MAY HAVE OVER-REACTED.
WE'RE GOING TO SEE A MOVIE AFTER SCHOOL. WANNA JOIN US?
NO I DIDN'T.
BESIDES, PLENTY OF GIRLS LIKE HIM ANYWAY.
YEAH, SURE! YOU'RE COMING TOO, RIGHT?
UH... SURE.
CAN I JOIN YOU GUYS?

CHAPTER 11
I DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO JOIN THE CROWD.
YOU'RE FALLING BEHIND, TOO. IT'S OK, YOU CAN GO ON.
IT'S JUST THAT...
YUME, DO YOU LIKE WALKING SO SLOWLY?
I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD BE A STEP BEHIND.

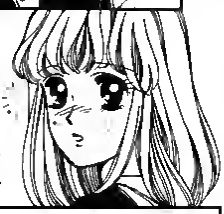
IT'S OK.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
YOU'RE MAD AT ME, HUH.
MAYBE HE'S TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR THIS AFTERNOON.
I ENVY YOU.
HUH?
ARE YOU SURE?
YOU PROBABLY THINK I'M A JERK.
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE.
YOU'RE SO CON-FIDENT--
--AND SELF-ASSURED.

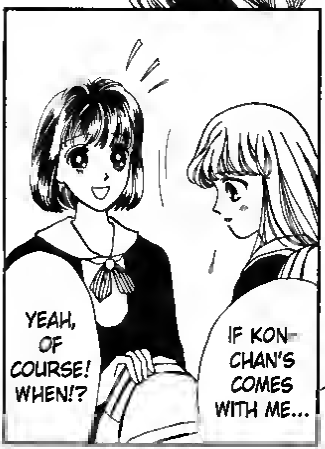

YOU THINK SO? IF I HAD THAT MUCH CONFIDENCE--
--I WOULDN'T CARE IF YOU WERE MAD AT ME.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
HE'S JUST AMUSED THAT--
--A GIRL WOULD AVOID HIM.
SO YOU'RE NOT CONFIDENT, YUME?

WHY WOULD I BE?
LOOK AT ME.
GUYS WANT TO BE WITH A PRETTY GIRL, RIGHT?
I'D JUST MAKE--
--MY PARTNER LOOK BAD.
Reach

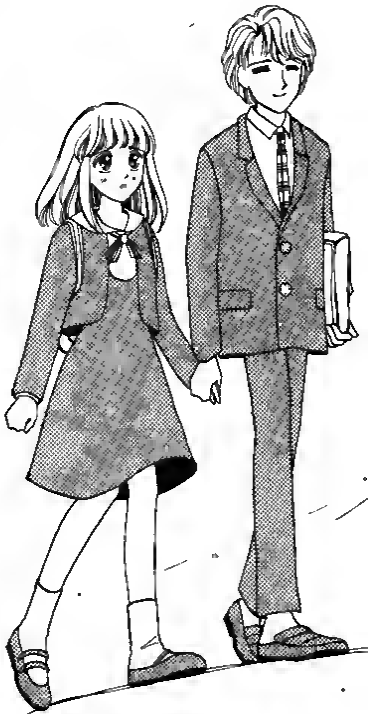
COME ON, LET'S WALK TOGETHER.
THAT'S A LOAD OF GARBAGE.
OK?

YO KAZU, YOU'RE ALREADY MAKING MOVES!
AS ALWAYS!
Heh heh!
OOOH!
--A SWEET--
HE'S REALLY--

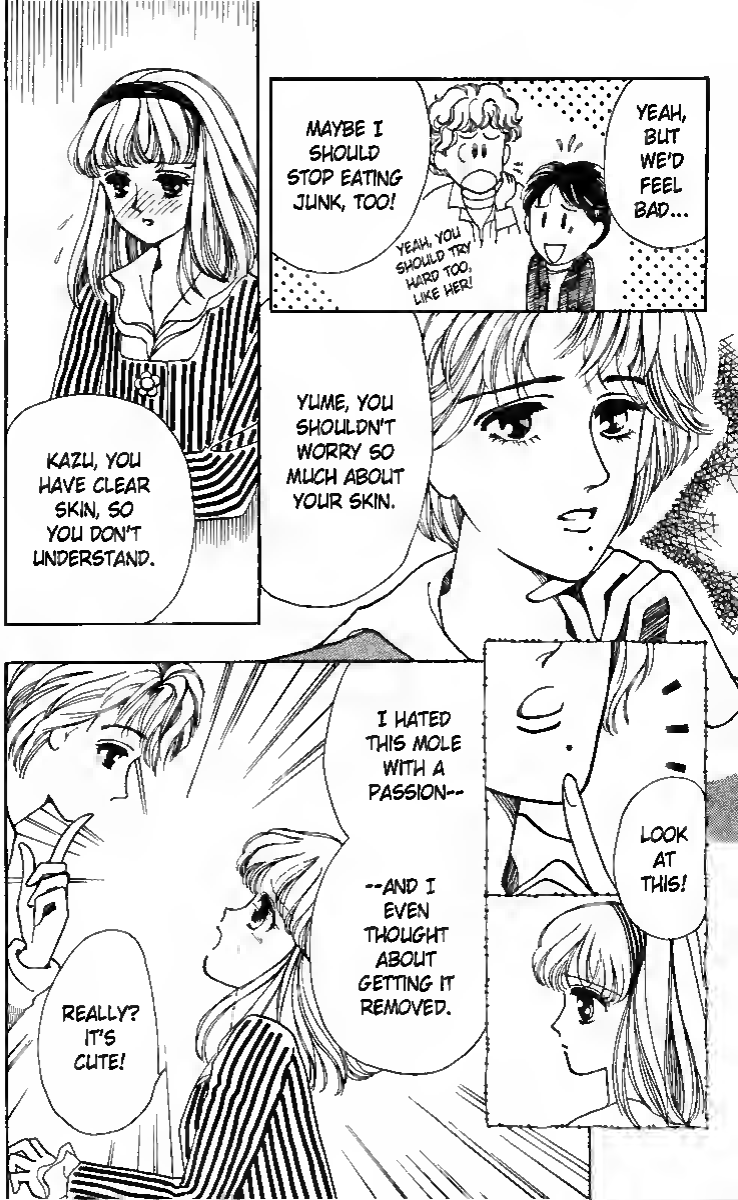




--WONDERFUL GUY!



AFTER THAT, KAZU ALWAYS--
--ASKS ME TO JOIN HIM AND HIS FRIENDS AFTER SCHOOL.
I'M GETTING CHOCOLATE CAKE AND COFFEE.
A CHOCOLATE PARFAIT FOR ME.
REALLY, A PARFAIT?
HIS WORDS, "LET'S WALK TOGETHER" WAS NOT LIMITED TO THAT FIRST DAY.
しーん
silence
YUME!
OOPS, I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT...
OH, DON'T MIND ME, GO AHEAD!
I LOVE CHOCOLATE AND COFFEE--
--BUT I'M AVOIDING THEM UNTIL MY SKIN CLEARS UP.


KAZU, YOU HAVE CLEAR SKIN, SO YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
MAYBE I SHOULD STOP EATING JUNK, TOO!
YEAH, YOU SHOULD TRY HARD TOO, LIKE HER!
YEAH, BUT WE'D FEEL BAD...
YUME, YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT YOUR SKIN.
I HATED THIS MOLE WITH A PASSION--
--AND I EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT GETTING IT REMOVED.
LOOK AT THIS!
REALLY? IT'S CUTE!

BONUS 7.

MY FAVORITE BAND AT THE MOMENT IS SKANCHI-SAN. I STILL LIKE PRI2 AND MANABU MIYABARA. I WANT TO GO SEE "ALUCARD," BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO! BOO HOO!

FANS HAVE WRITTEN LETTERS ASKING ME IF "THE MAGIC OF LOVE" WAS BASED ON MY OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH ACNE. YES, IT WAS. I WAS PLAGUED WITH ACNE FOR A LONG TIME, UNTIL JUST RECENTLY (I THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS GETTING OLDER, BUT APPARENTLY, THAT'S NOT NECESSARILY THE CASE). IT TOTALLY CLEARED UP ONE DAY, LIKE SUDDENLY FIGURING OUT THE ANSWER TO A HARD PROBLEM! I DO TAKE CARE OF MY SKIN, USING PRODUCTS THAT KEEP THEM HEALTHY. ALSO, THE CLEAR SKIN DRINK REALLY HELPED, TOO (AYA SUGIYAMA IS IN THE COMMERCIAL)!

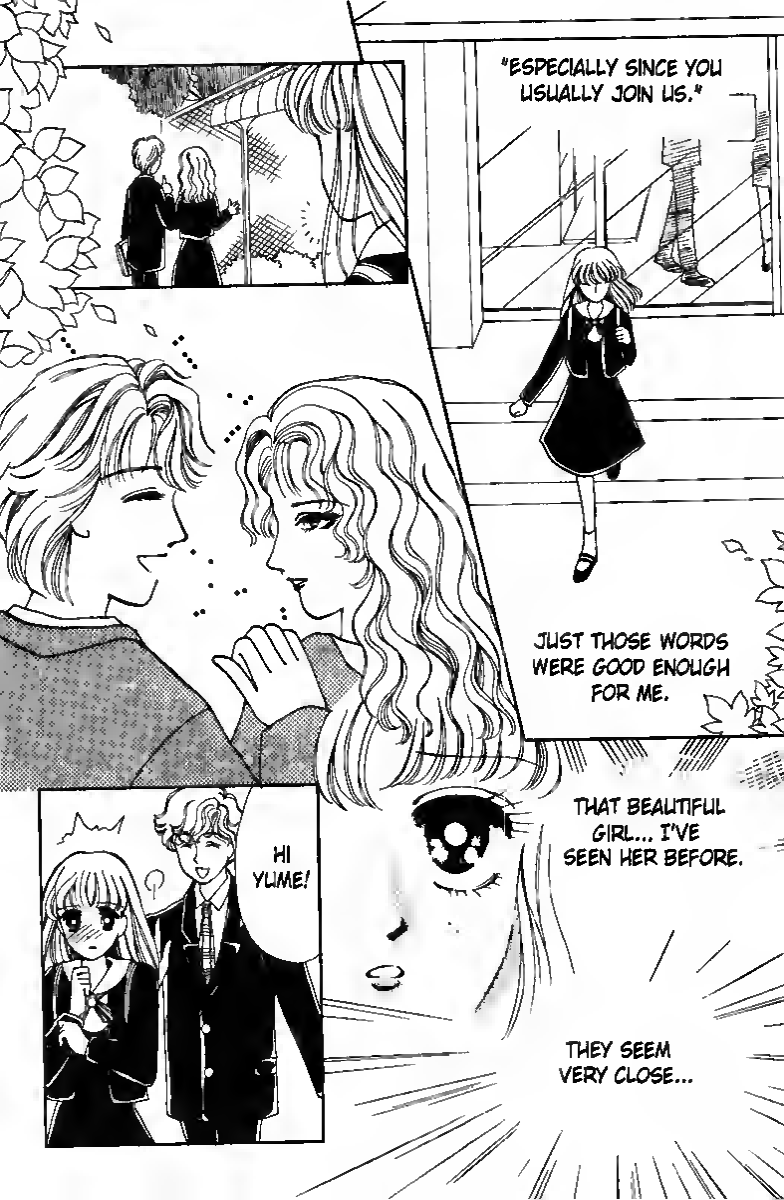
SEE?
YEAH, I'VE LEARNED TO LIKE IT.
I SWEAR, IT'S NOT AS BAD AS YOU THINK.
MAYBE I'LL HAVE A CHOCOLATE CAKE TODAY...
I'M SURE MY ZITS AREN'T AS CUTE AS HIS MOLE.

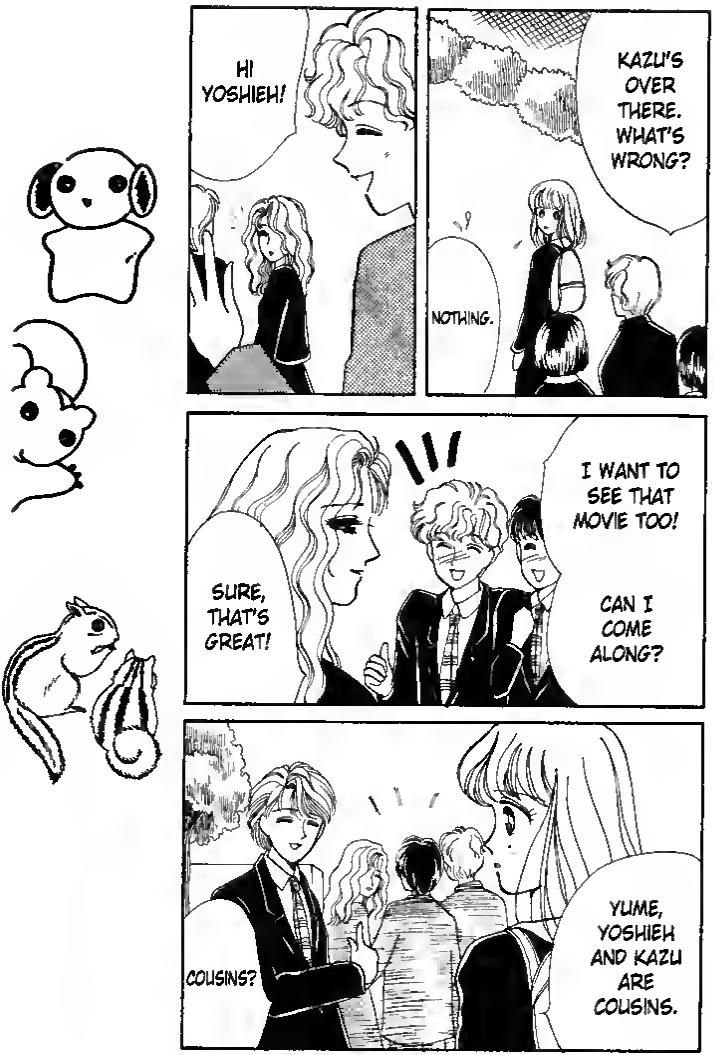
KAZU ALWAYS TRIES TO CHEER ME UP.
HOW DO YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR SKIN?
I DON'T!
CAN YOU GIVE THIS TO KAZU?
YOU'RE HIS FRIEND, RIGHT?
OH, SURE.
A GIRL IN CLASS B WANTED ME TO GIVE THIS TO YOU.
WOW! COOL, SHE'S ASKING ME OUT!
IT MUST BE NICE TO BE WANTED.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

IT'S NICE, BUT I'M NOT INTERESTED IN A STEADY GIRLFRIEND.
I'D RATHER HAVE FUN WITH MY FRIENDS.
ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU USUALLY JOIN US.
DOES HE MEAN THAT?
COME HERE, ISHIHARA!
WHAT IS IT?
LET'S GO OUT FOR A MOVIE THIS SATURDAY!

I WISH WE COULD STAY LIKE THIS.
HAVE KAZU HELP ME BUILD MY CONFIDENCE...
ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE?
I EVEN ATE CHOCOLATE LAST WEEK!
MY SKIN'S STARTING TO CLEAR UP!
OH... SHE KNOWS SHE'S UGLY.
WHISPER
I KNOW I'M NOT WHAT GUYS WANT.
NO! I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH ANYBODY!

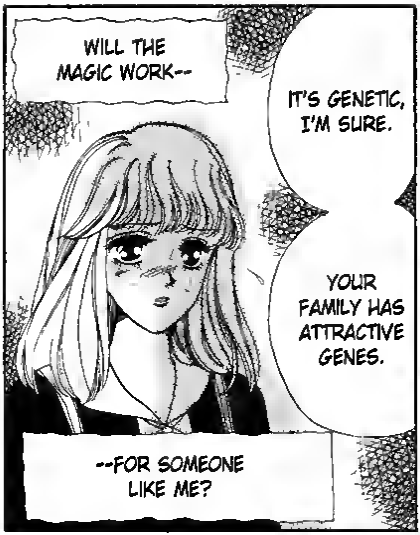
WHO ARE THOSE WITCHES?
THEY ALL ASK ME TO HELP THEM.
THEY HEARD US!
REALLY? GOOD!
THAT'S SO RUDE!
THEY KNOW WE'RE GOOD FRIENDS--
--BUT THEY'RE SURE I'M NOT PRETTY ENOUGH TO BE HIS GIRLFRIEND.
SHE ASKED KAZU OUT, BUT HE TURNED HER DOWN.
THERE'S A LOT OF GIRLS THAT LIKE HIM, THOUGH...
YES, I KNOW AS WELL AS EVERYONE ELSE--
--THAT I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR KAZU.


"ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU USUALLY JOIN US."
JUST THOSE WORDS WERE GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
THAT BEAUTIFUL GIRL... I'VE SEEN HER BEFORE.
THEY SEEM VERY CLOSE...
HI YUME!

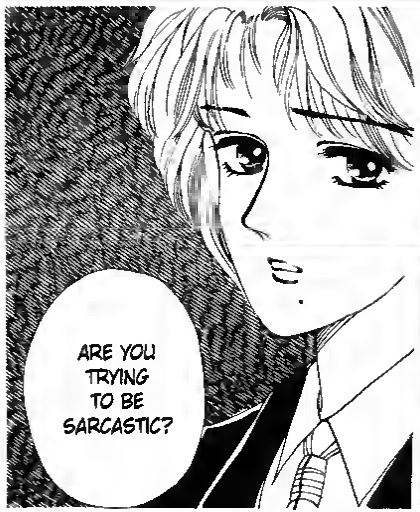

HI YOSHIEH!
KAZU'S OVER THERE. WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING.
I WANT TO SEE THAT MOVIE TOO!
SURE, THAT'S GREAT!
CAN I COME ALONG?
YUME, YOSHIEH AND KAZU ARE COUSINS.
COUSINS?

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!
SO IS SHE YUME, THE GIRL YOU'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT?
Smile
GIGGLE KAZU, YOU'RE SUCH A BABY!
OH, BY THE WAY... HA HA
SHE'S GORGEOUS.
I WOULD FAWN ON HER, TOO.
HE HAS SOMEONE LIKE THAT IN HIS LIFE.
HE'S DIFFERENT WITH HER...
THE WAY SHE TALKS TO HIM.
HE'S SUCH A BABY WHEN HE'S AROUND HER.

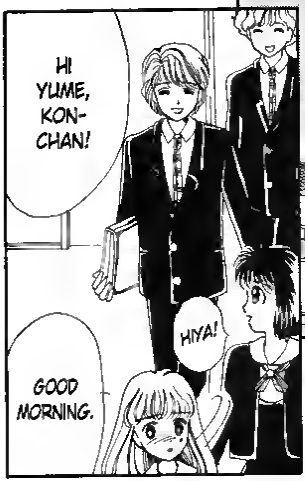
NEXT TO HER, MY UGLY SKIN WOULD BE MORE OBVIOUS.
HE DOESN'T WANT A STEADY GIRLFRIEND.
WHY WOULD HE? HE HAS A BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN HIS LIFE.
OVER HERE!
KON-CHAN, YOSHIEH!
OH, YOSHIEH, RIGHT?
SHE USED TO BE OVERWEIGHT, BUT SINCE SHE STARTED SEEING HER BOYFRIEND, SHE CHANGED A LOT.
SHE'S STUNNING. SHE LOOKS LIKE YOU.
YAK YAK
I HOPE WE CAN ALL SIT TOGETHER!
ARE YOU FEELING OK, YUME?


WILL THE MAGIC WORK--
IT'S GENETIC, I'M SURE.
YOUR FAMILY HAS ATTRACTIVE GENES.
--FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

PEOPLE SAY WOMEN BECOME BEAUTIFUL WHEN THEY FALL IN LOVE. SHE'S A GOOD EXAMPLE.
OH.
THERE'S MORE SEATS!
I SEE. FOR HER--
--THE MAGIC SPELL OF LOVE WORKED.


ARE YOU TRYING TO BE SARCASTIC?

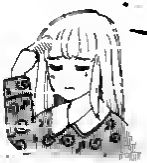
NO, IT WAS A COMP-LIMENT.
IT DIDN'T SOUND LIKE ONE.
NEVER MIND.
NOOO! I HAVE TONS OF NEW ZITS!
I THOUGHT IT WAS GETTING BETTER!



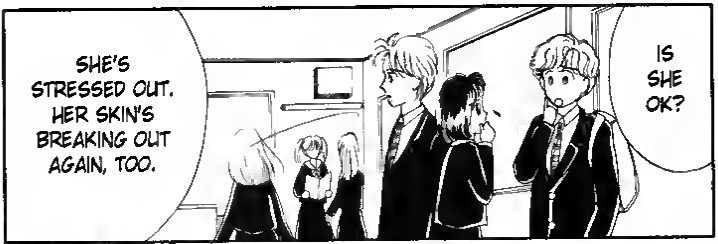
I'M BACK TO SQUARE ONE AGAIN.

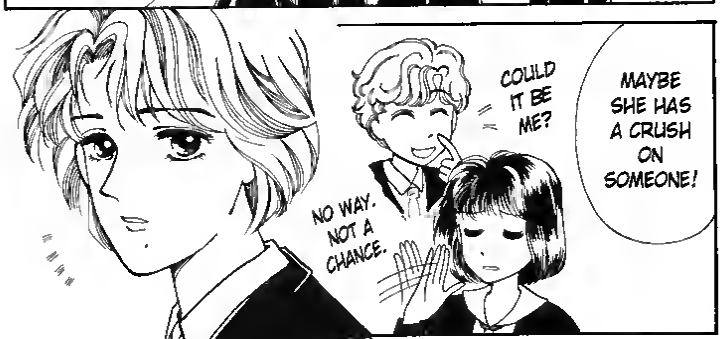
MY ZITS, MY SELF-CONFIDENCE...

I'LL HIDE IT WITH MY BANGS!



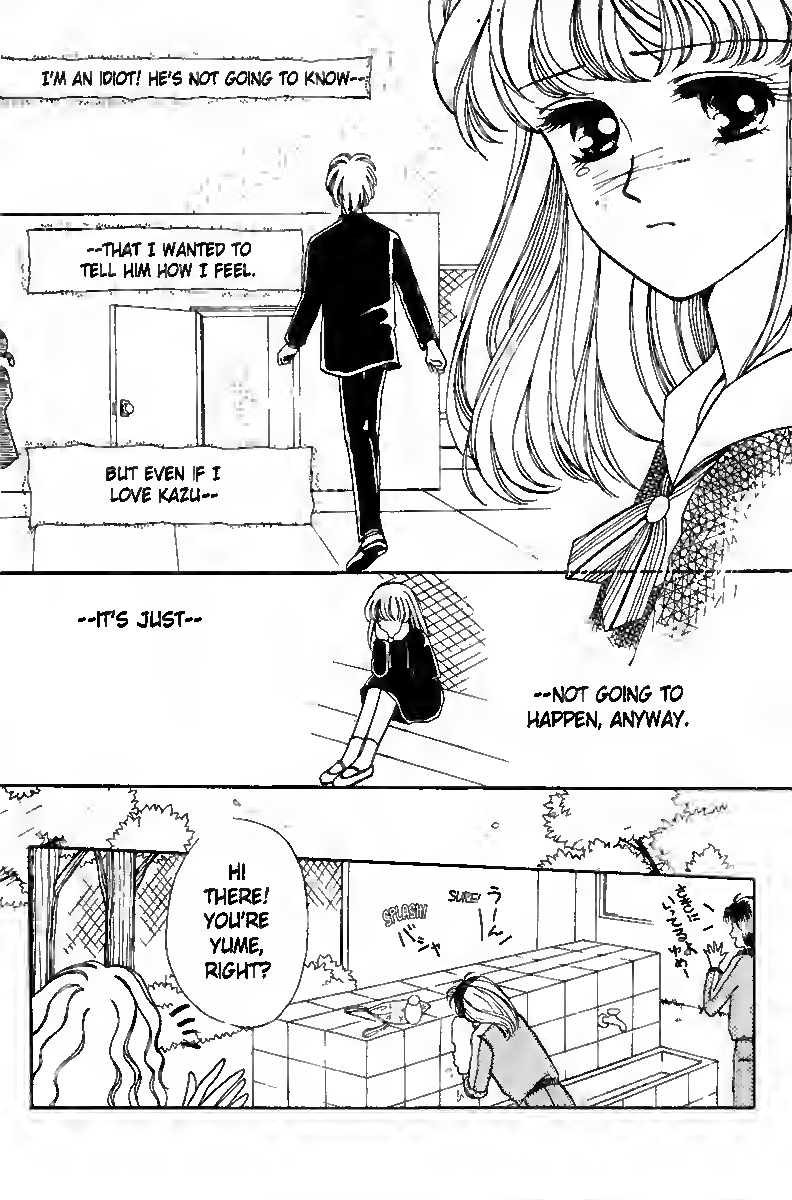
I THOUGHT KAZU'S WORDS WERE HELPING ME WITH MY SELF CONFIDENCE...

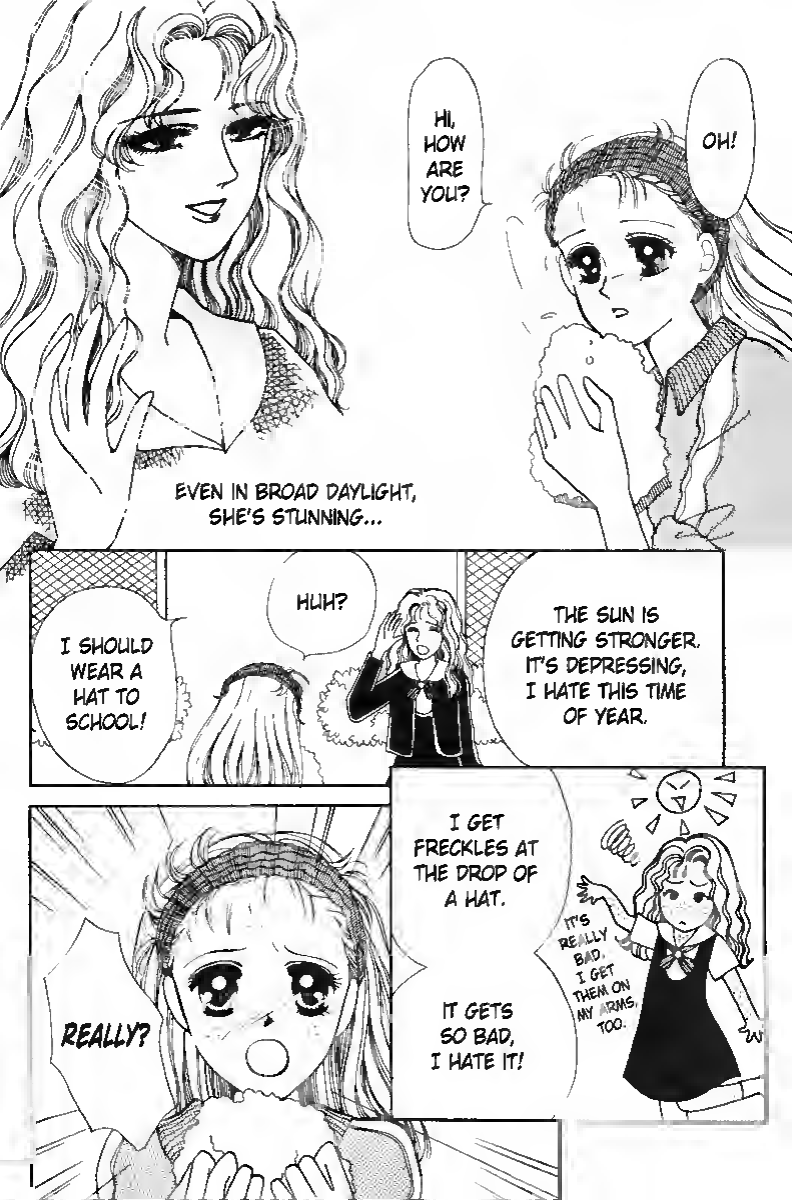


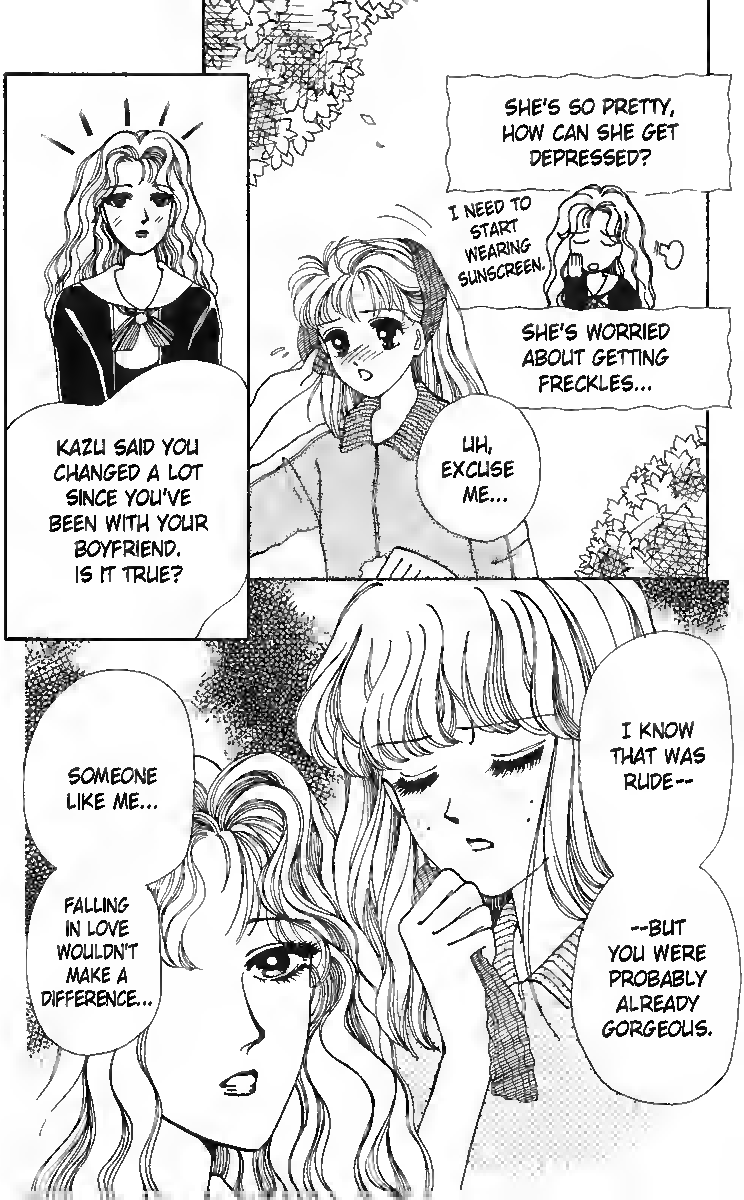


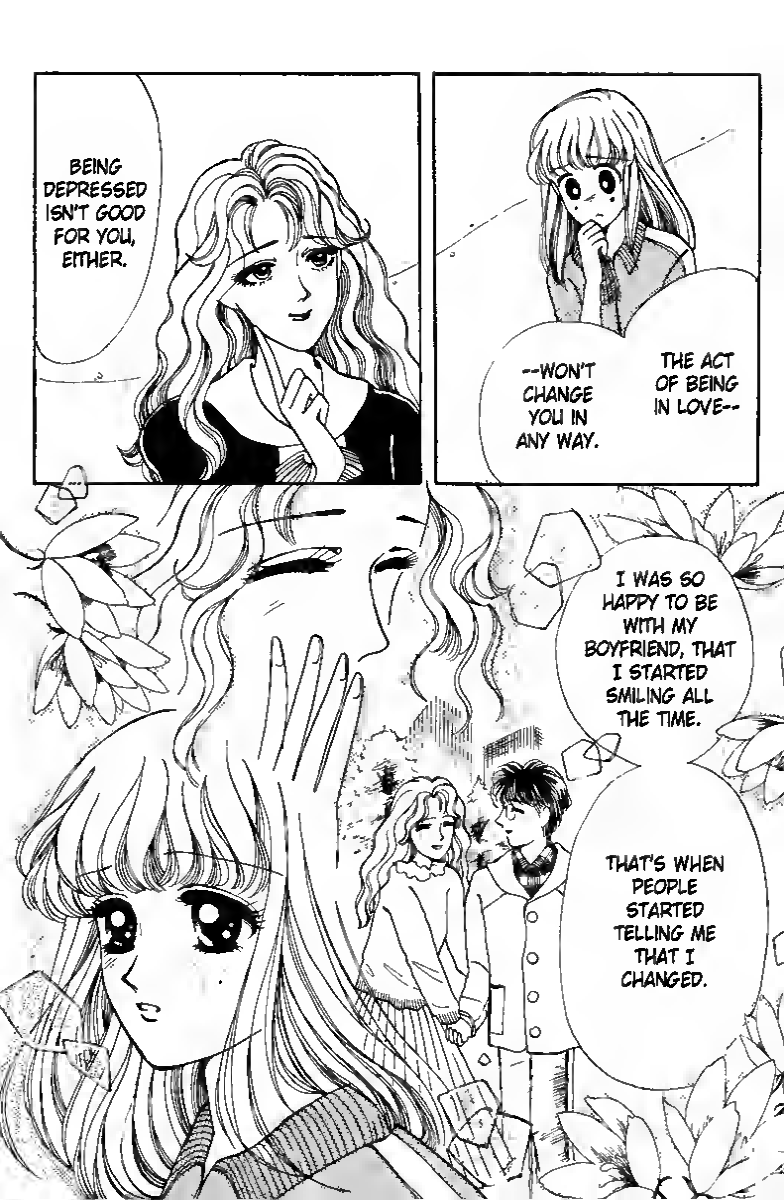
ARE YOU OK? YOU SEEMED A BIT DOWN SINCE SATURDAY.
EVERYONE THINKS YOU'RE STRESSING OUT OVER A CRUSH.
HEY, YUME!
A CRUSH...
I WAS IN DENIAL FOR A WHILE, BUT--
--WHY SHOULD I FALL IN LOVE WHEN I KNOW I DON'T HAVE A CHANCE?
THAT'S JUST REALITY.

SINCE THAT DAY, I WAS IN LOVE...
WHO IS IT?
YEAH, KAZU.
SO, THEY'RE RIGHT. IS HE IN OUR CLASS?
YOU KNOW HIM VERY WELL.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME, THAT'S OK. I'LL HELP YOU IF I CAN, OK.


I'M AN IDIOT! HE'S NOT GOING TO KNOW--
--THAT I WANTED TO TELL HIM HOW I FEEL.
BUT EVEN IF I LOVE KAZU--
--IT'S JUST--
--NOT GOING TO HAPPEN, ANYWAY.
HI THERE! YOU'RE YUME, RIGHT?
SPLASH!
SUKE!


HI, HOW ARE YOU?
OH!
EVEN IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, SHE'S STUNNING...
HUH?
I SHOULD WEAR A HAT TO SCHOOL!
THE SUN IS GETTING STRONGER. IT'S DEPRESSING, I HATE THIS TIME OF YEAR.
I GET FRECKLES AT THE DROP OF A HAT.
IT'S REALLY BAD. I GET THEM ON MY ARMS, TOO.
IT GETS SO BAD, I HATE IT!
REALLY?


SHE'S SO PRETTY, HOW CAN SHE GET DEPRESSED?
I NEED TO START WEARING SUNSCREEN.
SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT GETTING FRECKLES...
UH, EXCUSE ME...
KAZU SAID YOU CHANGED A LOT SINCE YOU'VE BEEN WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND. IS IT TRUE?
I KNOW THAT WAS RUDE--
--BUT YOU WERE PROBABLY ALREADY GORGEOUS.
SOMEONE LIKE ME...
FALLING IN LOVE WOULDN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE...


BEING DEPRESSED ISN'T GOOD FOR YOU, EITHER.
--WON'T CHANGE YOU IN ANY WAY.
THE ACT OF BEING IN LOVE--
I WAS SO HAPPY TO BE WITH MY BOYFRIEND, THAT I STARTED SMILING ALL THE TIME.
THAT'S WHEN PEOPLE STARTED TELLING ME THAT I CHANGED.

I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN I WAS WITH KAZU.
MY SKIN DID CLEAR UP A BIT.
BUT I HAVE PIMPLES ON MY FOREHEAD.
REALLY?
KEEPING YOUR HAIR OFF YOUR FACE WILL HELP THEM HEAL FASTER.
YUME, YOU LOOK SO CUTE--
--WHEN YOUR HAIR'S NOT COVERING YOUR FACE.
THAT'S TRUE.
YOU LOOK CUTE WITHOUT BANGS.
YOU LOOK CUTE--
--WITH BANGS, TOO.

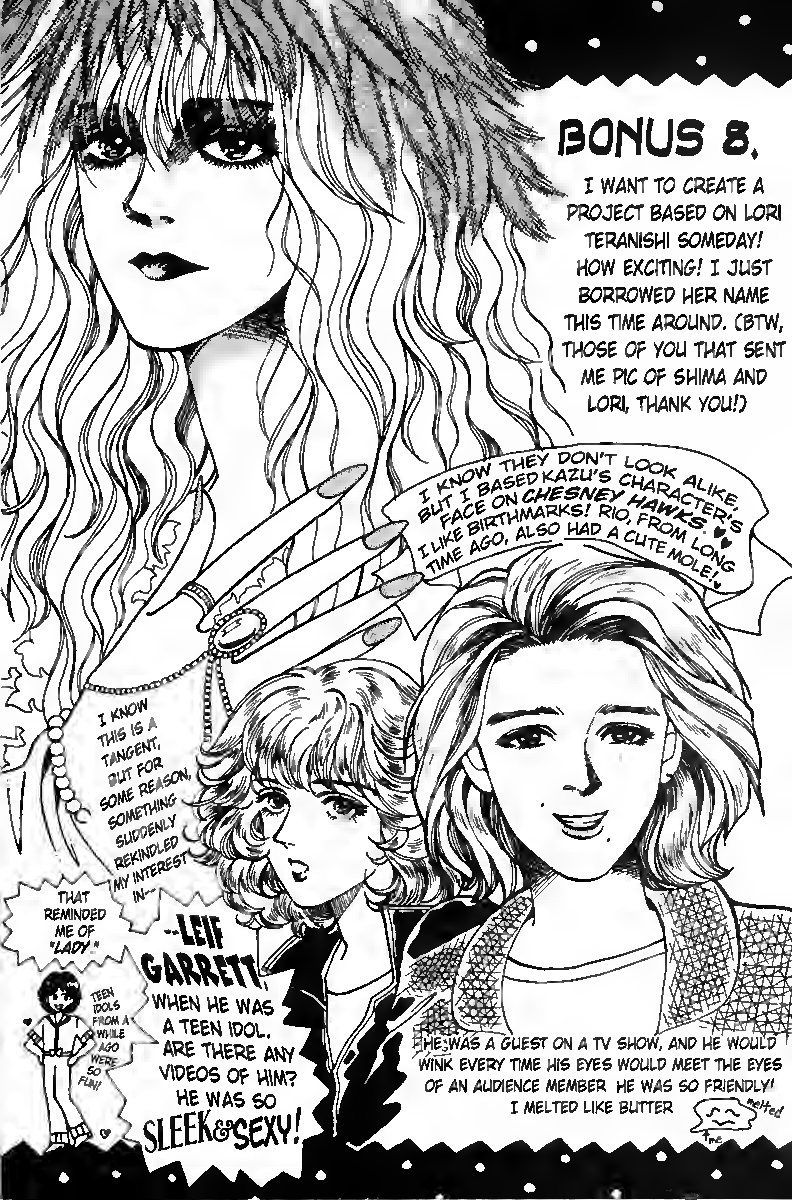
HER PERSONALITY REMINDS ME OF KAZU.
I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, SOON!
SHE'S PRETTY, AND SHE'S REALLY SWEET.
I WISH I COULD BE WONDERFUL, LIKE HER...
YUME, YOU LOOK DIFFERENT TODAY!
YOU THINK SO?
YOUR HAIR LOOKS REALLY CUTE!
MAYBE THE MAGIC SPELL WILL WORK FOR ME?
THAT TIME, WHEN MY SKIN CLEARED UP...
MAYBE THE SPELL WAS WORKING...

COME ON, STOP IT!
IS IT LOVE?
A DIFFERENT HAIRSTYLE.
Smile
Smile
Smile
I WISH STUFF LIKE THAT MADE ME SO HAPPY!
GIRLS ARE SO SIMPLE.
YES! ♪ YOU'RE SO HAPPY THIS MORNING!
YOU LOOK LIKE SOMETHING GOOD HAPPENED.
LOOK, MY SKIN'S GETTING BETTER!
LATELY, SHE'S STARTING TO--

--LOOK REALLY CUTE.
OH, SURE!
CAN I ASK FOR YOUR --YUME? ADVICE--
I REALLY LIKE THIS GIRL.

OH NO...
YOU KNOW HER VERY WELL.
I'VE LIKED HER FOR A LONG TIME.
I THOUGHT SHE WAS SO CUTE SINCE WE FIRST MET.
SHE'S SENSITIVE.
IT MADE ME WANT TO PROTECT HER.

I'VE BEEN STRESSED OUT.
YOU SEE YUME, YOU KNOW YOURSELF THE BEST, RIGHT?
TELL ME, WHO'S THE GUY THAT YOU LIKE?
The End


BONUS 8.
I WANT TO CREATE A PROJECT BASED ON LORI TERANISHI SOMEDAY! HOW EXCITING! I JUST BORROWED HER NAME THIS TIME AROUND. (BTW, THOSE OF YOU THAT SENT ME PIC OF SHIMA AND LORI, THANK YOU!)
I KNOW THEY DON'T LOOK ALIKE, BUT I BASED KAZU'S CHARACTER'S FACE ON CHESNEY HAWKS. I LIKE BIRTHMARKS! RIO, FROM LONG TIME AGO, ALSO HAD A CUTE MOLE.
I KNOW THIS IS A TANGENT, BUT FOR SOME REASON, SOMETHING SUDDENLY REKINDLED MY INTEREST IN--
THAT REMINDED ME OF "LADY."
--LEIF GARRETT. WHEN HE WAS A TEEN IDOL. ARE THERE ANY VIDEOS OF HIM? HE WAS SO SLEEK & SEXY!
TEEN IDOLS FROM A WHILE AGO WERE SO FLAT
HE WAS A GUEST ON A TV SHOW, AND HE WOULD WINK EVERY TIME HIS EYES WOULD MEET THE EYES OF AN AUDIENCE MEMBER. HE WAS SO FRIENDLY! I MELTED LIKE BUTTER
melted

♡ THANK YOU TO ALL MY READERS! IF YOU BOTHERED TO READ THE BONUS COMMENTS, THANK YOU VERY MUCH! I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! I HOPE LOVE AND PEACE COMES INTO YOUR LIFE, JUST LIKE RYOU AND ZEN!

♡ THANK YOU, TO EVERYONE THAT HELPED ME WITH THIS PROJECT! KUMI OKAMOTO AND HARUE MODEKI, THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE TO HELP ME. MISAKO YAMADA, KEI MIZUKI, THANK YOU FOR THE GORGEOUS BACKGROUNDS!

♡ MY EDITOR, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK DURING THE MANY YEARS WE WORKED TOGETHER!

♡ THANK YOU TO ALL MY FRIENDS THAT PROVIDE ME, THE PROBLEM-RIDDLED, IMMATURE ONE, WITH SUPPORT. I AM ABLE TO WORK SO HARD BECAUSE YOU ARE ALL A PART OF MY LIFE. I'VE ALWAYS FELT THIS WAY, BUT I'VE BEEN FEELING IT A LOT MORE LATELY. AGAIN, THANK YOU.

♡ LIVE LONG & PROSPER ♡

May the Force be with you +

We'll meet again in my next project! ♡

Tomoko Taniguchi
June 7, '92

D.LEE HIS FANS WILL BE MAD! BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HIM!

I WANTED TO BASE RYOUTA'S CHARACTER ON HIM, BUT RYOUTA ENDED UP BEING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME KNOW ABOUT HIS LIVE CONCERT, "RIMACHI, DEMACHI." YOU CAN HAVE FUN BEING A GROUPIE FOR ME (LAUGH)! PLEASE KEEP SENDING ME UPDATES! BOO HOO! I CAN'T GO SEE HIS SHOW!

TOMOKO'S OMAKE

I hesitate publishing old books because I am a little embarrassed by my early works, but I appreciate that American readers requested to see more books by me.

This story is one of my favorites because it's about my grandparents' farm in Hokkaido. After my grandparents passed away, my uncle took over the farm. He couldn't run it forever and wanted to pass it onto his children, but none of his children wanted to take it over, so my uncle thought about selling the huge farmyard to a golf course. I was shocked to hear that I might lose my homeland where I spent a lot of time communing with animals and nature. I wanted our family to keep the land natural, the way I remembered it, so I wrote this story. Then, after all that, the golf company did not build the golf course, so my wish came true and nobody took over the farm.

In Japan there is not much natural land left anymore, so people appreciate Hokkaido where it is still unspoiled. Hokkaido is the northernmost part of Japan and it gets lots of snow so many people think it's not the place to live in winter, but many tourists visit there in the summer and autumn. It is also known as a place to get delicious food like seafood, vegetables and dairy products. People in the city envy me because I have such a nice hometown.

The model of Zenta was a drummer who was in a visual punk band (I guess many Japanese manga fans know what a Japanese visual band is). He dressed like a girl and the band broke up because he was sick. Fans were really shocked about that. I added him to my hometown story to give it a little color.

I thought it might be confusing for American readers since all of the characters in this story looked like girls. Seeing these old drawings, I feel really embarrassed...but still, this is my favorite comic.

I hope you like this book as much as you liked my other books.

Thank you very much!!
Tomoko Taniguchi
May 2003

Romance/Manga

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So to recuperate they decided to rest at their grandfather's farm in the country.. but now the farm might be turned into a golf course.. what are they going to do.. and what's to become of the love that they left behind in the city?

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